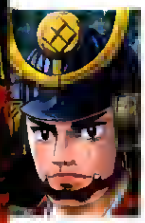
コミック　新田次郎原作

武田信玄

④越後の竜の巻

横山光輝



歴史コミック51

次郎 新田

武田信玄 4

横山光輝

講談社 K C

里　美

雑誌 45610-51

ISBN4-06-104351-X

C0379 ¥500E (0)

定価500円

コミック　新田次郎原作

武田信玄

④越後の竜の巻

横山光輝

歴史コミック51

新田次郎

武田信玄 4

横山光輝

講談社
K C

里　美

武田信玄 ④越後の竜の巻

天文十七年(一五四八)、晴信の先兵・里美は、信濃の豪族と手を組んだ小笠原長時と塩尻の勝弦峠で死闘を展開。十九年、林城の長時は北信の村上義清の元に敗走。二十歳の晴信は勢い砥石城に進攻するが、長尾景虎(謙信)の後盾に総崩れ……

その間に湖衣姫は悲劇の子・勝頼を誕生。そして元奉行衆の鎌田十郎左衛門により、紙・漆・蠟燭・木綿などの産業の種がもたらされると共に、御勅使川の流れを二分し釜無川に流す治水工事(信玄堤)が着工された。

「花菱」

TAKEDA SHINGEN

武田信玄

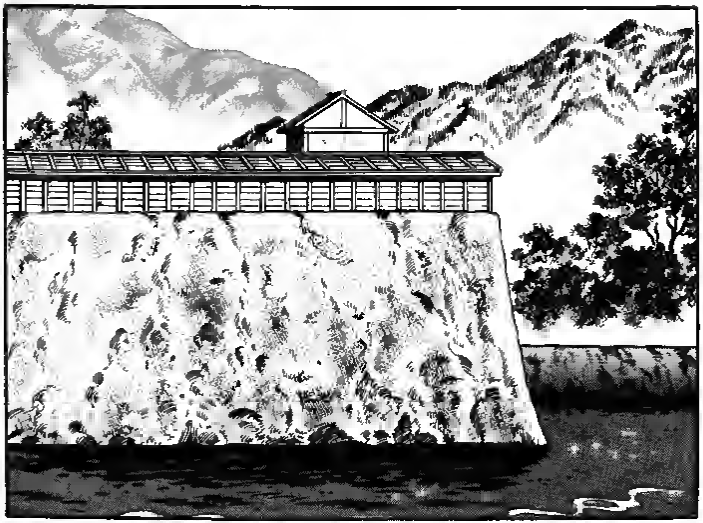
VOLUME 4:
THE DRAGON
OF ECHIGO

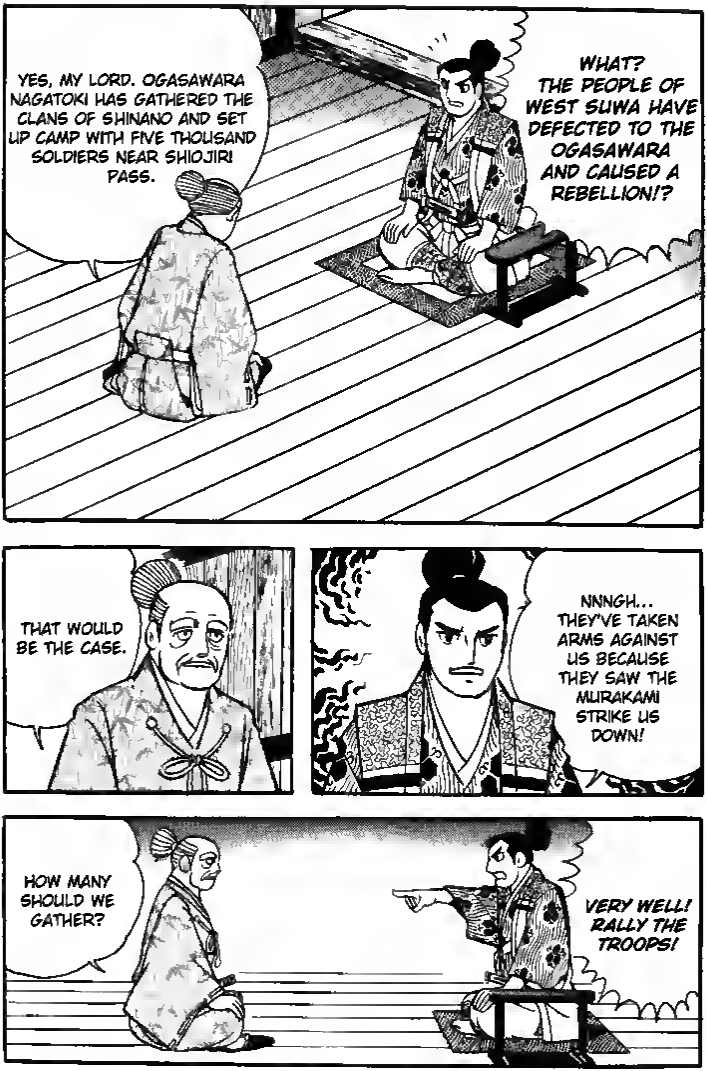
BY
YOKOYAMA
MITSUTERU

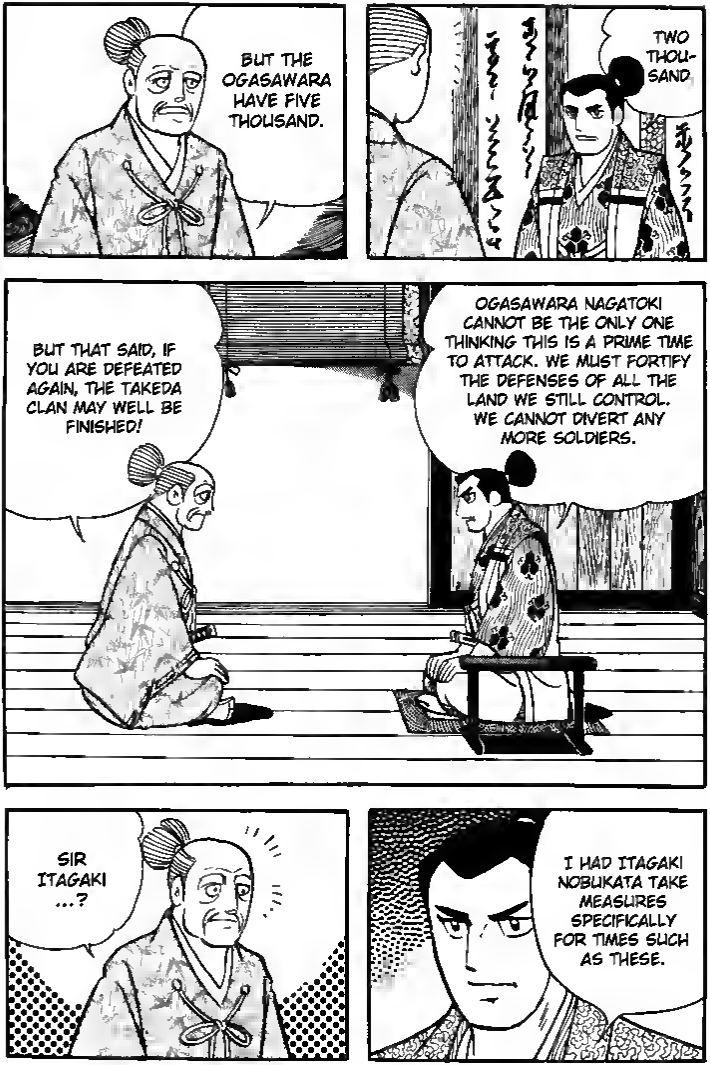
TABLE OF CONTENTS

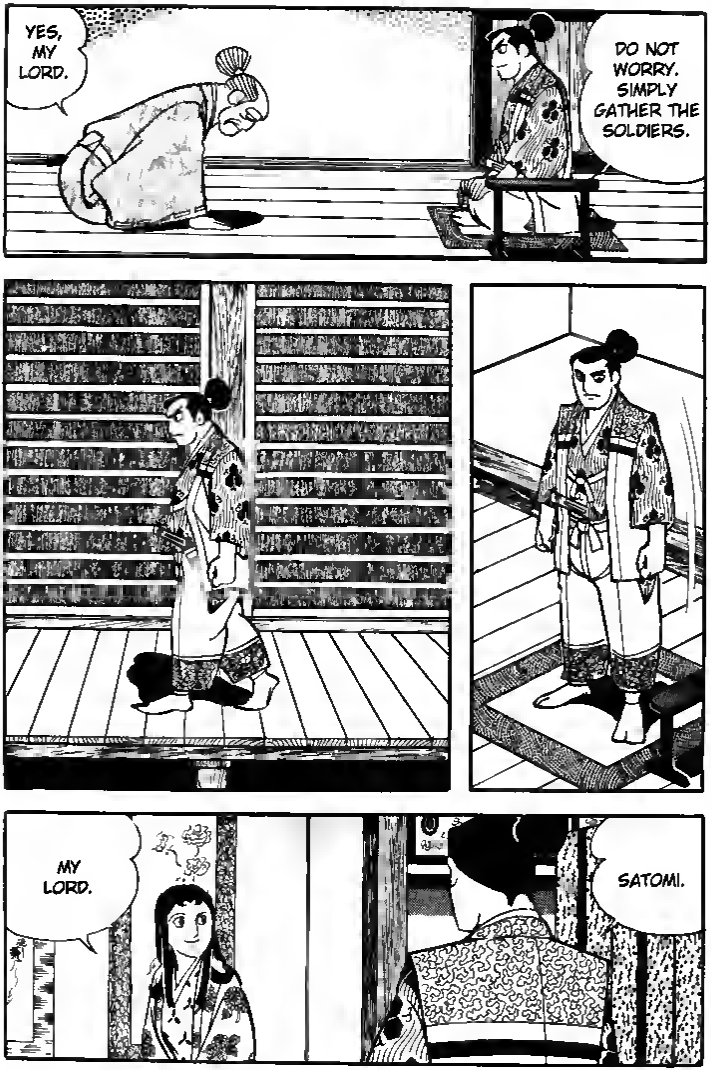
Chapter 27: The Late March
Chapter 28: Battle of Shiojiri Pass
Chapter 29: The Torchlight Strategy
Chapter 30: The Ruin of Toishi
Chapter 31: Rifles of Doubt
Chapter 32: Toishi Castle Falls
Chapter 33: Genius and Prodigy
Chapter 34: The Dragon of Echigo
Chapter 35: The End of Kohakusai

Chapter 27:
The Late March




YES, MY LORD. OGASAWARA NAGATOKI HAS GATHERED THE CLANS OF SHINANO AND SET UP CAMP WITH FIVE THOUSAND SOLDIERS NEAR SHIOJIRI PASS.
WHAT? THE PEOPLE OF WEST SUWA HAVE DEFECTED TO THE OGASAWARA AND CAUSED A REBELLION!?
THAT WOULD BE THE CASE.
NNNGH... THEY'VE TAKEN ARMS AGAINST US BECAUSE THEY SAW THE MURAKAMI STRIKE US DOWN!
HOW MANY SHOULD WE GATHER?
VERY WELL! RALLY THE TROOPS!

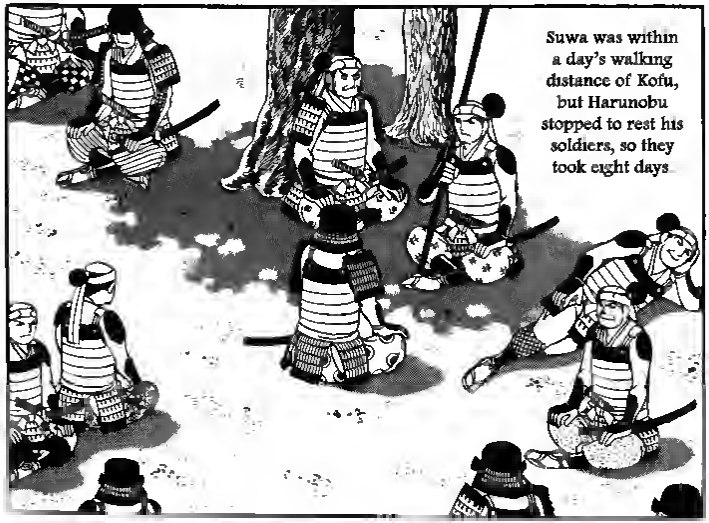

BUT THE OGASAWARA HAVE FIVE THOUSAND.
TWO THOU-SAND.
OGASAWARA NAGATOKI CANNOT BE THE ONLY ONE THINKING THIS IS A PRIME TIME TO ATTACK. WE MUST FORTIFY THE DEFENSES OF ALL THE LAND WE STILL CONTROL. WE CANNOT DIVERT ANY MORE SOLDIERS.
BUT THAT SAID, IF YOU ARE DEFEATED AGAIN, THE TAKEDA CLAN MAY WELL BE FINISHED!
SIR ITAGAKI ...?
I HAD ITAGAKI NOBUKATA TAKE MEASURES SPECIFICALLY FOR TIMES SUCH AS THESE.


YES, MY LORD.
DO NOT WORRY. SIMPLY GATHER THE SOLDIERS.
MY LORD.
SATOMI.

LEND ME YOUR LIFE.
OGASAWARA NAGATOKI HAS JOINED WITH WEST SUWA AND RAISED AN ARMY.
MY LIFE HAS BEEN YOURS EVER SINCE I WAS WED TO YOU.
THERE ARE SIGNS THAT ALL OF SAKU WILL DEFY THE TAKEDA, AND HALF OF SUWA ALREADY HAS. THE TAKEDA CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT GIVING OGASAWARA NAGATOKI A DECISIVE BLOW.

TAKE THE VANGUARD AND LEAD THE SOLDIERS.
I UNDERSTAND. WHAT MUST I DO?
I MUST HAVE YOU DO IT.
DO YOU BELIEVE I CAN DO THAT?
WE HAVE LOST SOME VALUABLE MEN.
IT IS TIMES LIKE THESE I WISH ITAGAKI AND AMARI HAD LIVED.

In July, Harunobu took two thousand soldiers and headed for Suwa.


Suwa was within a day's walking distance of Kofu, but Harunobu stopped to rest his soldiers, so they took eight days.

風徐如林侵
火不動如山
無敵方南
如風徐如林侵
火不動如山
無敵方南
MY LORD, WHY ARE WE TRAVELLING SO SLOWLY? THERE ARE RUMORS AMONG THE ENEMY THAT YOU HAVE LOST YOUR WILL TO FIGHT AFTER YOUR DEFEAT AT MURAKAMI'S HANDS.
WHY SHOULD WE NOT? THE SOLDIERS NEED THEIR REST ON A DAY AS HOT AS THIS.

I HAVE A REASON FOR TAKING THIS PACE.
NO, MY LORD. THIS IS AFFECTING THE SOLDIERS' MORALE.
WE MUST WIN THIS WAR NO MATTER WHAT. AND THUS I AM WAITING FOR SOMETHING.
YES, MY LORD...
MARCH THE SOLDIERS FORWARD AS I ORDERED.

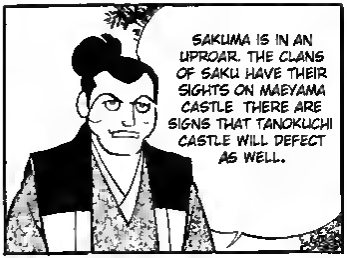
July 17th...
WELL, THE MASTER ORDERED US TO TAKE A REST, SO WE SHOULD TAKE IT!
YOU KNOW, I WONDER WHAT'S UP WITH THIS UPCOMING WAR!

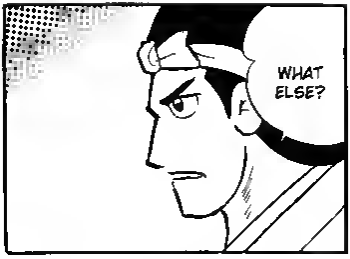
OH, HE IS? SEND HIM IN!
REPORTING IN. KAKUMA SHICHIROBE, A MESSENGER OF SIR SANADA YUKITAKA, IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
AND I AM HARUNOBU.
I AM KAKUMA SHICHIROBE.

GOOD. DID YOU CONFIRM?
DUE TO THE WORK OF SIR TAKEBUCHI GENSHO, WHOM SIR ITAGAKI NOBUKATA HAD INFILTRATE LORD OGASAWARA NAGATOKI'S CASTLE OF HAYASHI CASTLE WHILE HE STILL LIVED, THE OGASAWARA CLAN ELDERS NISHINOMASA SHIROZAEMON AND MIMURA SURUGA-NO-KAMI HAVE REPORTED THROUGH SANADA YUKITAKA THAT THEY WILL BE ALLYING WITH US FOR THIS BATTLE.

HEHEHE... IT SEEMS THAT OGASAWARA NAGATOKI'S GRASP ON THE CLANS OF AZUMI AND CHIKUMA ARE NOT AS TIGHT AS HE WOULD THINK.

THEY SAY THAT ONCE BATTLE BREAKS OUT AT SHIOJIRI PASS, THEY WILL ALLY WITH US.

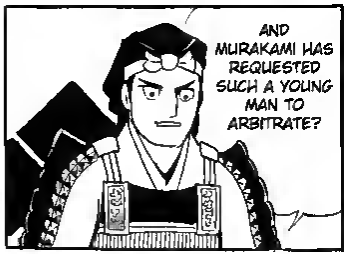

SAKUMA IS IN AN UPROAR. THE CLANS OF SAKU HAVE THEIR SIGHTS ON MAEYAMA CASTLE. THERE ARE SIGNS THAT TANOKUCHI CASTLE WILL DEFECT AS WELL.

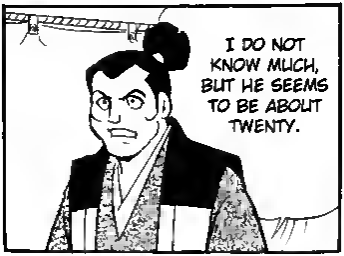

WHAT ELSE?

NAGAO KAGETORA?

MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO HAS RECENTLY CAUSED STRIFE WITH TAKANASHI MASAYORI OF INNER SHINANO, AND HAS REQUESTED NAGAO KAGETORA, THE GUARDIAN OF ECHIGO, TO ARBITRATE

WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE?


AND MURAKAMI HAS REQUESTED SUCH A YOUNG MAN TO ARBITRATE?


I DO NOT KNOW MUCH, BUT HE SEEMS TO BE ABOUT TWENTY.

YES, MY LORD.
WELL DONE. YOU ARE DISMISSED.
YES, MY LORD. IT IS A SHAME TO HAVE LOST HIM.
KOHAKUSAI, ITAGAKI NOBUKATA TRULY THOUGHT TWO STEPS AHEAD IN EVERYTHING, AND TOOK PRECAUTIONS IN EVERY STRATEGIC POSITION. WE MUST LEARN FROM NOBUKATA'S FARSIGHTEDNESS. FOR WAR CANNOT BE WON ON STRENGTH ALONE.
REPORTING IN! HINATA SABUROSHIRO, MAGISTRATE OF RIFLES, IS HERE WITH YAMAMOTO KANSUKE!

GOOD! THE RIFLES MADE IT ON TIME! SEND THEM IN!
I TAKE IT THE RIFLES HAVE MADE IT.

WE HAVE BROUGHT TWENTY RIFLES IN TOTAL, THREE FORGED BY THE RIFLESMITH HINATA BUNSAI AND SEVENTEEN OBTAINED BY SIR YAMAMOTO KANSUKE.
WE HAVE TRAINED TWENTY-FIVE FOOT SOLDIERS ON HOW TO OPERATE RIFLES.
AND WHO WILL OPERATE THESE RIFLES?
I AM GLAD YOU HAVE MADE IT ON TIME. THE ENEMY MAY HAVE HEARD RUMORS OF THESE RIFLES, BUT I DOUBT THEY HAVE EVER SEEN THEM. THEY ARE SURE TO CRUSH OUR ENEMIES' WILL, JUST AS AN ARMY OF A THOUSAND REINFORCEMENTS.
YES, MY LORD!

YES, MY LORD.
I WANT YOU TO CONTINUE TO PROCURE RIFLES FOR ME.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT KIND OF MAN?
NOW, KANSUKE, I WANT YOU TO GO TO ECHIGO AND SEE WHAT KIND OF MAN NAGAO KAGETORA IS.
I WANT TO KNOW HIS HABITS. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT FOOD HE LIKES TO EAT. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT WOMEN HE LOVES. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT MEN HE RELIES ON... I WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM.
HE SEEMS TO BE AROUND TWENTY YEARS OLD, BUT THE FACT THAT I REMEMBERED HIS NAME MUST MEAN HE IS NO ORDINARY MAN.

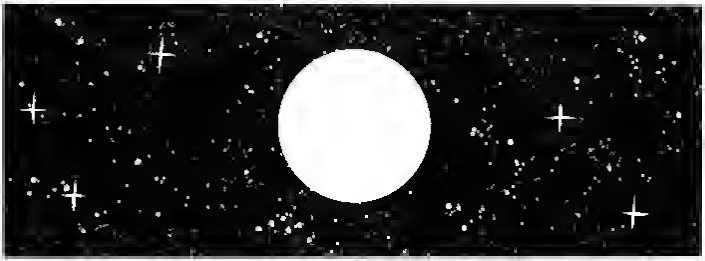
It was then that Harunobu felt that Kageo Nobutora would become a serious foe in the future.

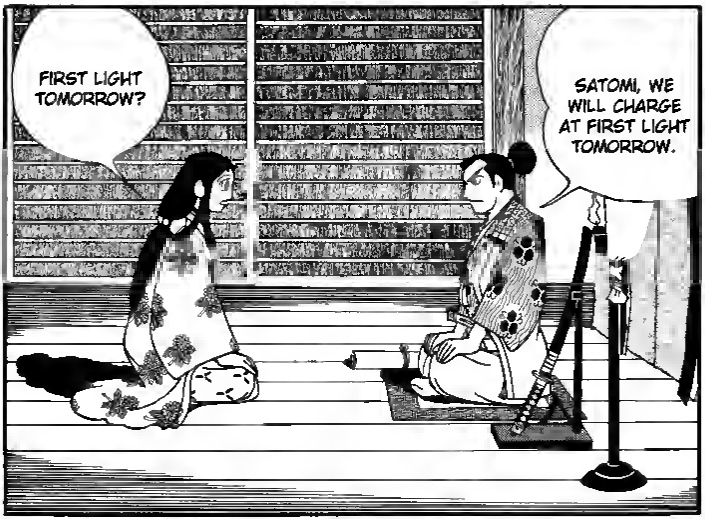
Shiojiri
Pass

Ogasawara
Nagatoki's
main camp

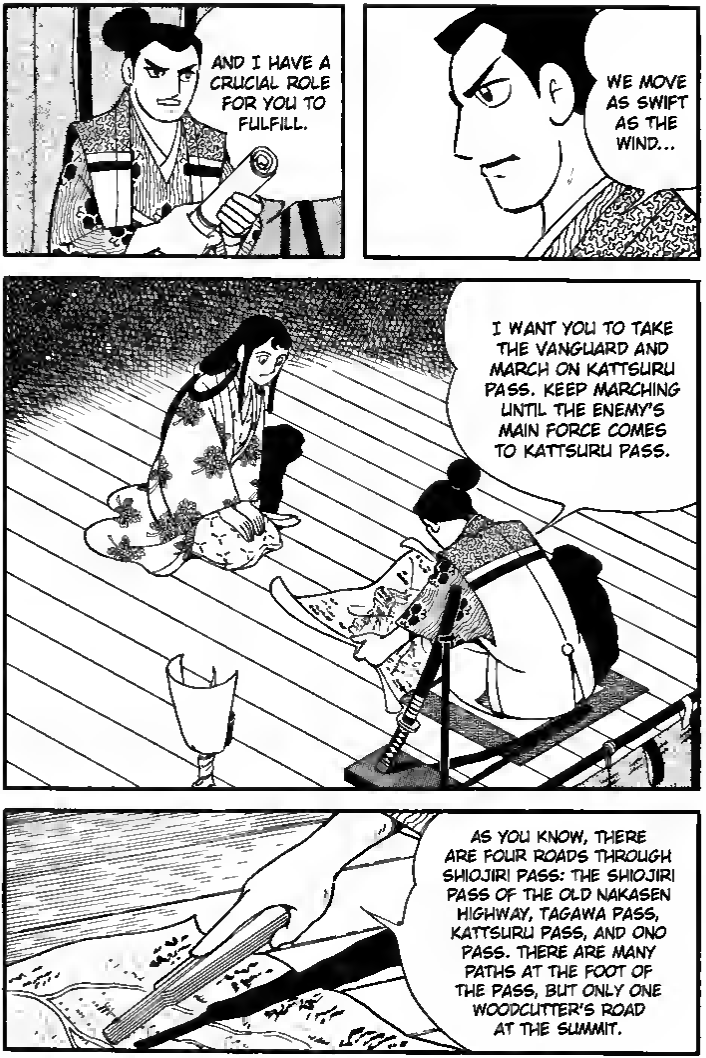
YES, MY LORD. THE SOLDIERS ARE RESTING IN THE HOT SPRINGS OF SUWA.
WELL? IS THE TAKEDA ARMY KEEPING UP ITS SLUGGISH PACE?
WHAT? DOES HE SCORN ME SO MUCH THAT HE WOULD REST HIS SOLDIERS IN THE HOT SPRINGS OF SUWA?
RECONCILIATION?
IT COULD BE THAT HE IS WAITING FOR THE OPPORTUNE MOMENT TO SEEK RECONCILIATION.

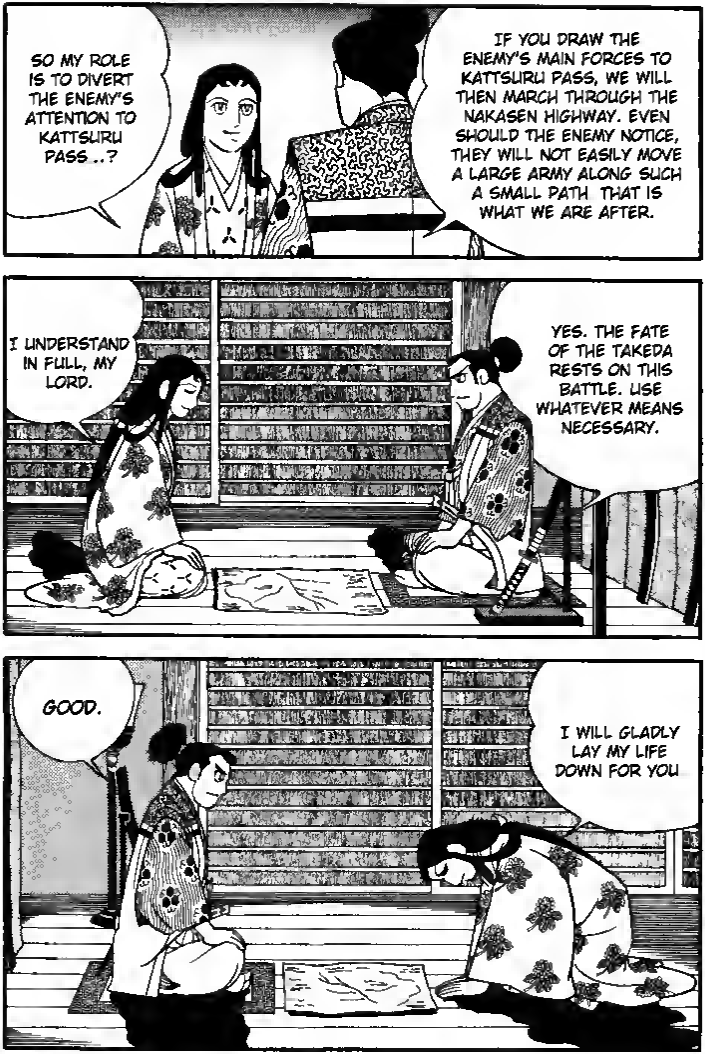
I SEE. THAT IS FULLY REASONABLE.
HARUNOBU HAS LOST HIS RIGHT- AND LEFT-HAND MEN, ITAGAKI AND AMARI. HE COULD HAVE LOST THE WILL TO FIGHT...
YES, MY LORD.
IF HARUNOBU DOES HAVE SUCH WAR-WEARINESS, THEN OUR VICTORY, IN BOTH MORALE AND NUMBERS, IS ASSURED. BUT WE MUST BE VIGILANT.
But under the scorching sun, the morale of Ogasawara's soldiers in the camp was dwindling




FIRST LIGHT TOMORROW?
SATOMI, WE WILL CHARGE AT FIRST LIGHT TOMORROW.

MY SPIES TELL ME THAT THE OGASAWARA ARMY IS LOSING MORALE, HEARING THAT WE HAVE HALTED OUR MARCH TO BATHE IN THE HOT SPRINGS OF SUWA.


AND I HAVE A CRUCIAL ROLE FOR YOU TO FULFILL.
WE MOVE AS SWIFT AS THE WIND...
I WANT YOU TO TAKE THE VANGUARD AND MARCH ON KATTSURU PASS. KEEP MARCHING UNTIL THE ENEMY'S MAIN FORCE COMES TO KATTSURU PASS.
AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE FOUR ROADS THROUGH SHIOJIRI PASS: THE SHIOJIRI PASS OF THE OLD NAKASEN HIGHWAY, TAGAWA PASS, KATTSURU PASS, AND ONO PASS. THERE ARE MANY PATHS AT THE FOOT OF THE PASS, BUT ONLY ONE WOODCUTTER'S ROAD AT THE SUMMIT.

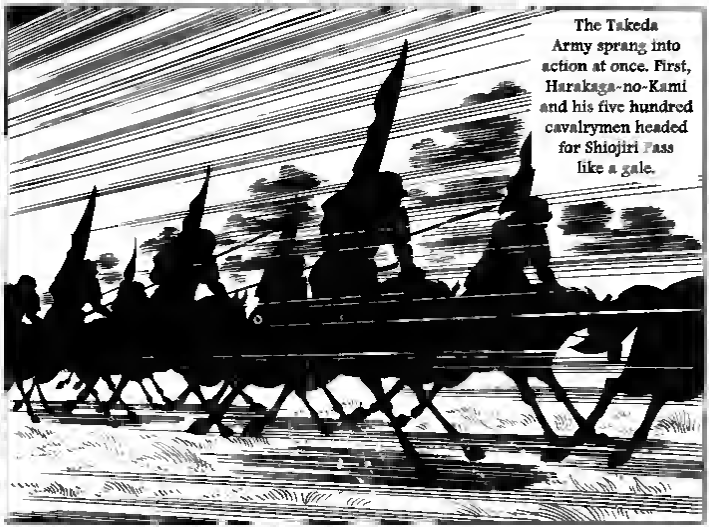

SO MY ROLE IS TO DIVERT THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION TO KATTSURU PASS ..?
IF YOU DRAW THE ENEMY'S MAIN FORCES TO KATTSURU PASS, WE WILL THEN MARCH THROUGH THE NAKASEN HIGHWAY. EVEN SHOULD THE ENEMY NOTICE, THEY WILL NOT EASILY MOVE A LARGE ARMY ALONG SUCH A SMALL PATH THAT IS WHAT WE ARE AFTER.
I UNDERSTAND IN FULL, MY LORD.
YES. THE FATE OF THE TAKEDA RESTS ON THIS BATTLE. USE WHATEVER MEANS NECESSARY.
GOOD.
I WILL GLADLY LAY MY LIFE DOWN FOR YOU

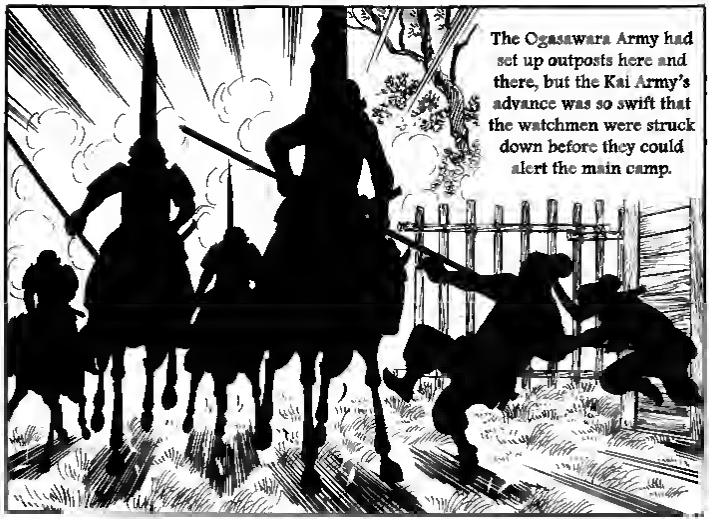
TAKEDA SHINGEN

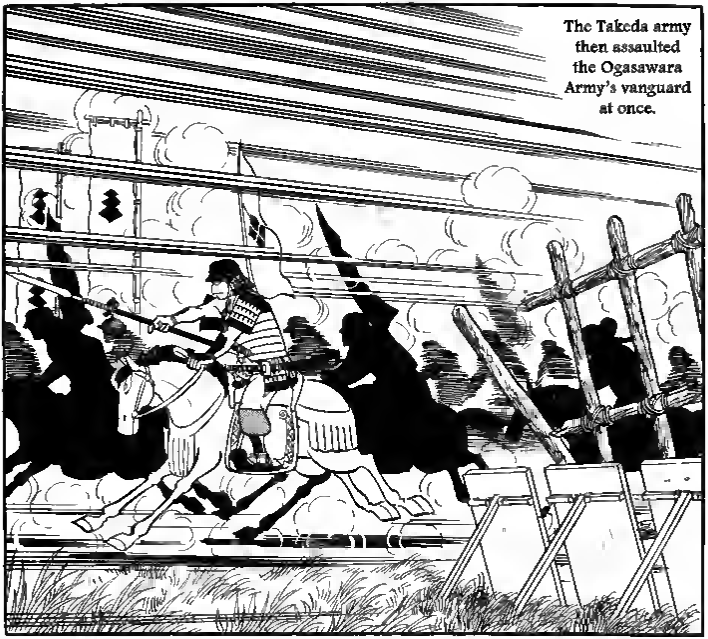
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

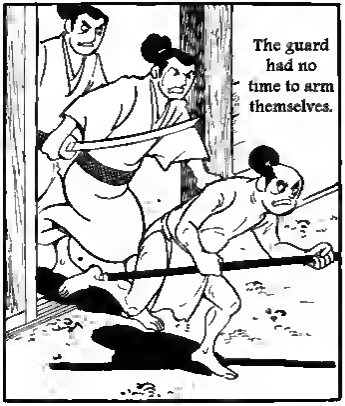
CHAPTER 27

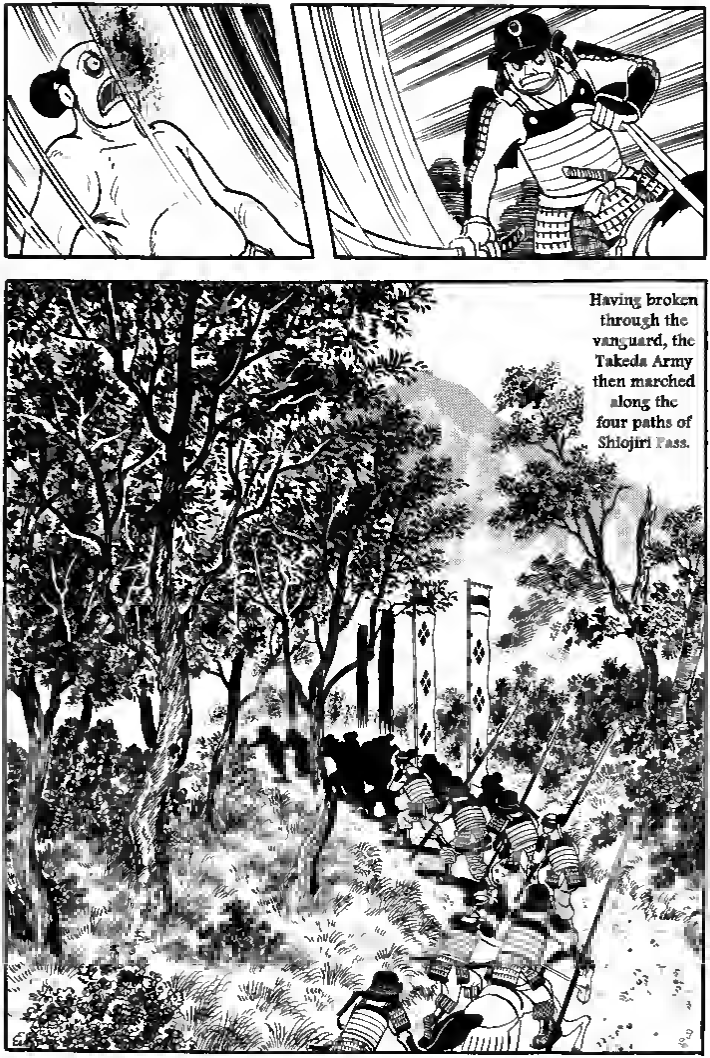
Chapter 28:
Battle of Shiojiri Pass

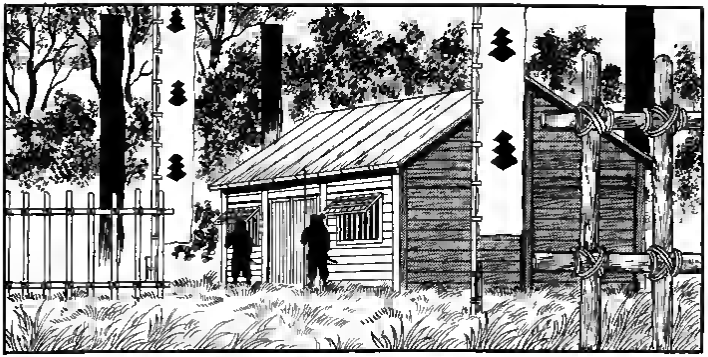

The Takeda Army sprang into action at once. First, Harakaga-no-Kami and his five hundred cavalrymen headed for Shiojiri Pass like a gale.

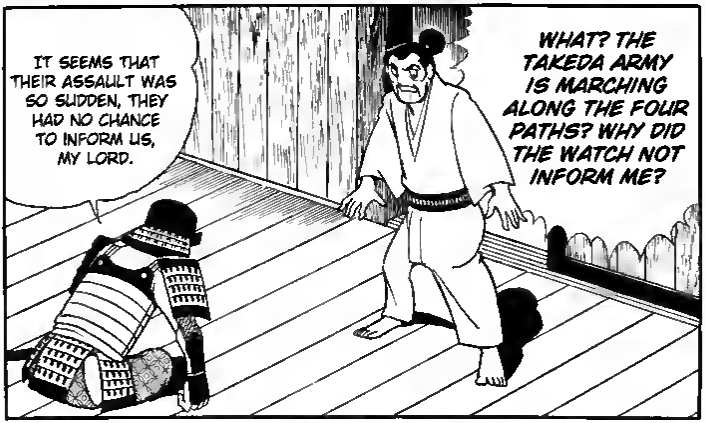

The Ogasawara Army had set up outposts here and there, but the Kai Army's advance was so swift that the watchmen were struck down before they could alert the main camp.


The Takeda army then assaulted the Ogasawara Army's vanguard at once.

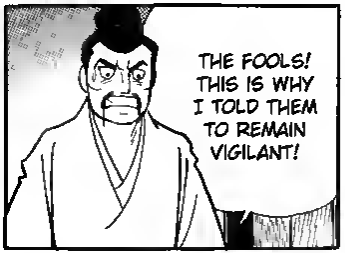

The guard had no time to arm themselves.


Having broken through the vanguard, the Takeda Army then marched along the four paths of Shiojiri Pass.



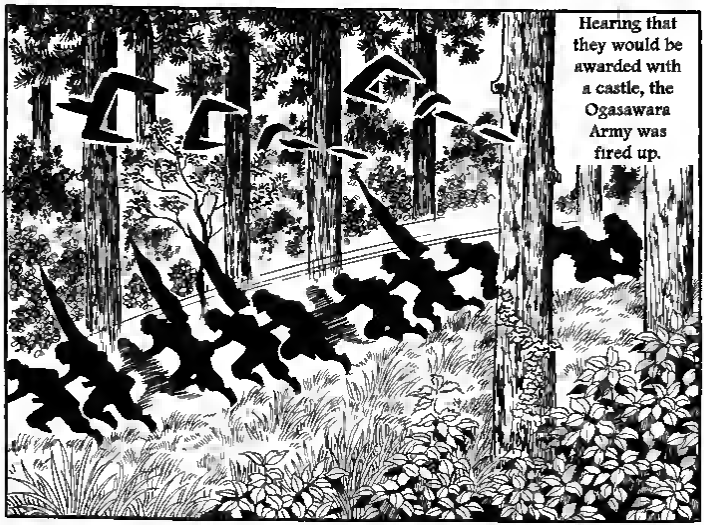

IT SEEMS THAT THEIR ASSAULT WAS SO SUDDEN, THEY HAD NO CHANCE TO INFORM US, MY LORD.
WHAT? THE TAKEDA ARMY IS MARCHING ALONG THE FOUR PATHS? WHY DID THE WATCH NOT INFORM ME?

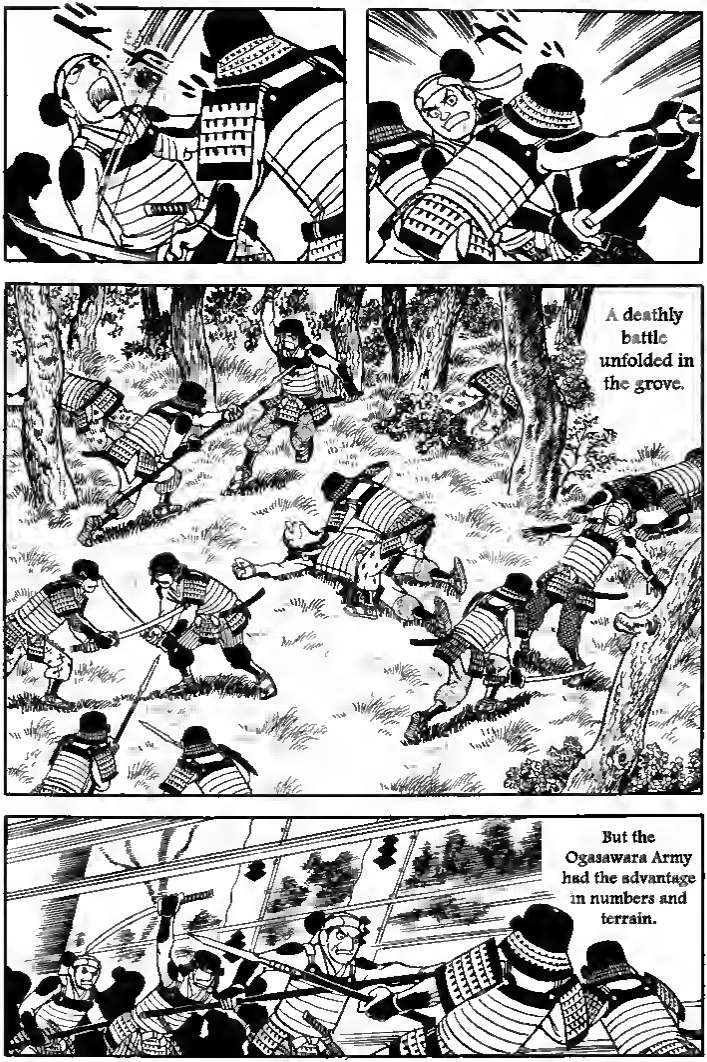
MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES.


THE FOOLS! THIS IS WHY I TOLD THEM TO REMAIN VIGILANT!

KATTSURA PASS, MY LORD.
SO WHICH PATH IS THE MAIN ARMY MARCHING ACROSS?
WHAT? A WOMAN LEADING AN ARMY!?
BECAUSE HARUNOBU'S CONCUBINE IS LEADING THE ARMY ALONG KATTSURA PASS.
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
NNNGH... DAMN THAT HARUNOBU! IS HE INSINUATING THAT EVEN A WOMAN CAN WAGE WAR AGAINST ME?
YES, MY LORD. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE HARUNOBU IS THERE, AS WELL.

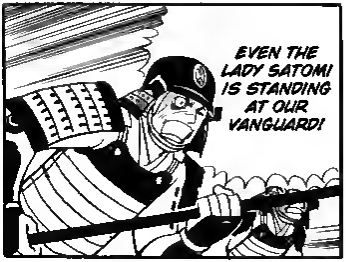
YES, MY LORD!
SEIZE THAT CONCUBINE! WHOEVER SEIZES HER WILL BE GIVEN AN ENTIRE CASTLE!

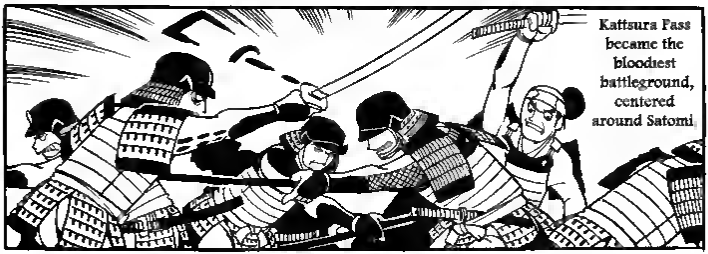

Hearing that they would be awarded with a castle, the Ogasawara Army was fired up.


A deathly battle unfolded in the grove.
But the Ogasawara Army had the advantage in numbers and terrain.

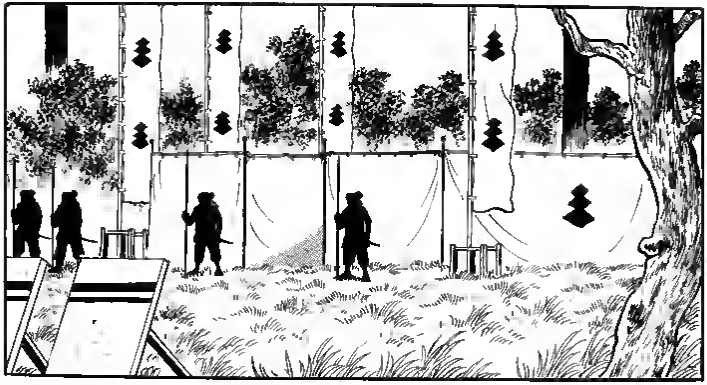
The Takeda Army was forced back.
OUR ALLIES' VICTORY RESTS ON THIS BATTLE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? OUR ALLIES' SUFFERING MEANS OUR ENEMIES' SUFFERING! YOU MUST ENDURE IT!
Hearing Satomi's voice, the Takeda Army recovered their courage.

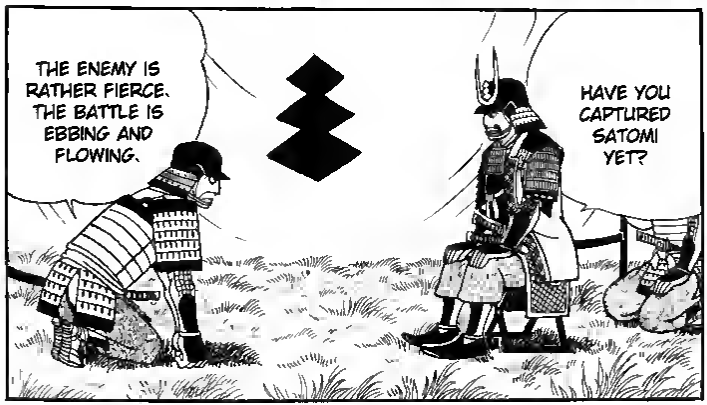
WE WOULD NOT BE MEN IF WE RAN AWAY HERE!


EVEN THE LADY SATOMI IS STANDING AT OUR VANGUARD!

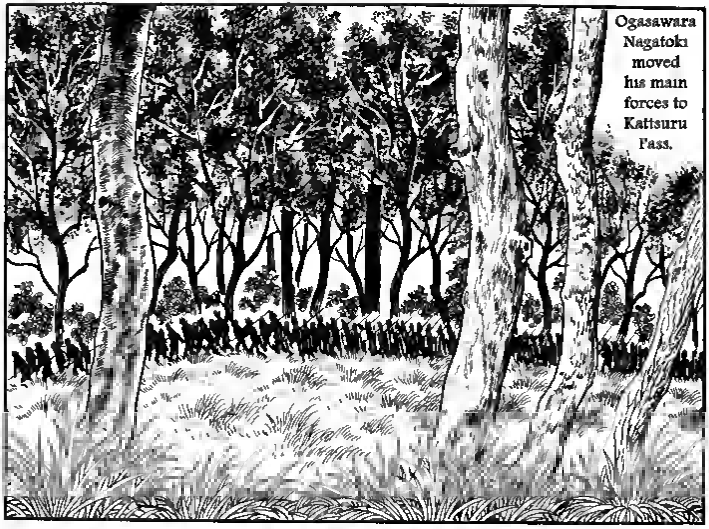

Kattsura Pass became the bloodiest battleground, centered around Satomi.

The Ogasawara soldiers dreamed of capturing Satomi and being rewarded with their own castle, while the Takeda Army considered Satomi's capture to be a disgrace to the warriors of Takeda.

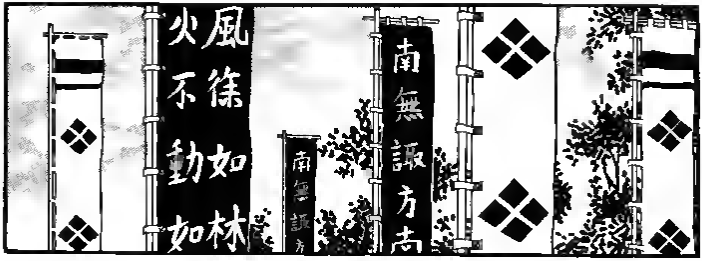


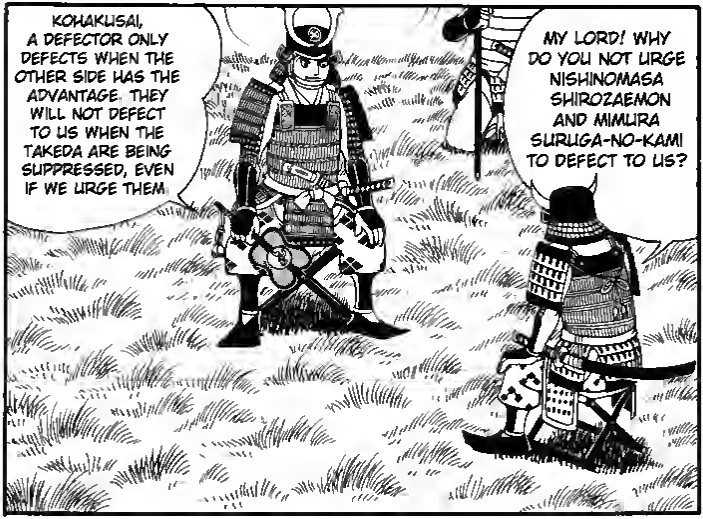

THE ENEMY IS RATHER FIERCE. THE BATTLE IS EBBING AND FLOWING.
HAVE YOU CAPTURED SATOMI YET?

I CAN WAIT NO LONGER! I WILL TAKE COMMAND PERSONALLY!


Ogasawara Nagatoki moved his main forces to Kattsuru Pass.

Meanwhile, the slain soldiers of Kattsuru Pass had become innumerable.

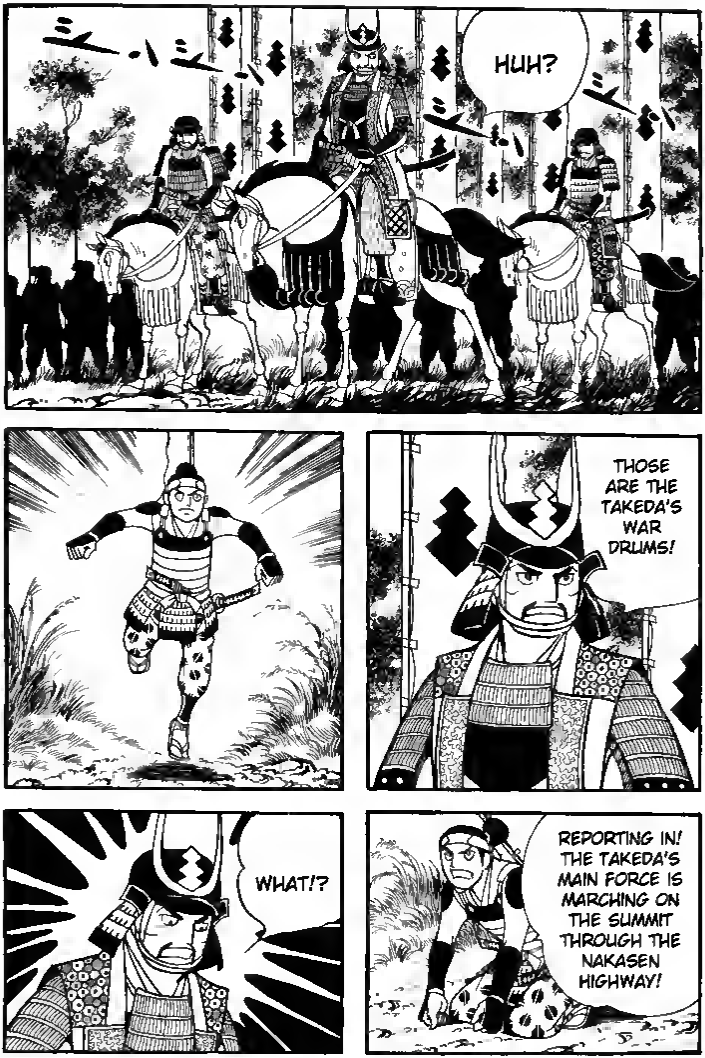

風徐如林
火不動如
南無諏方大
南無諏方

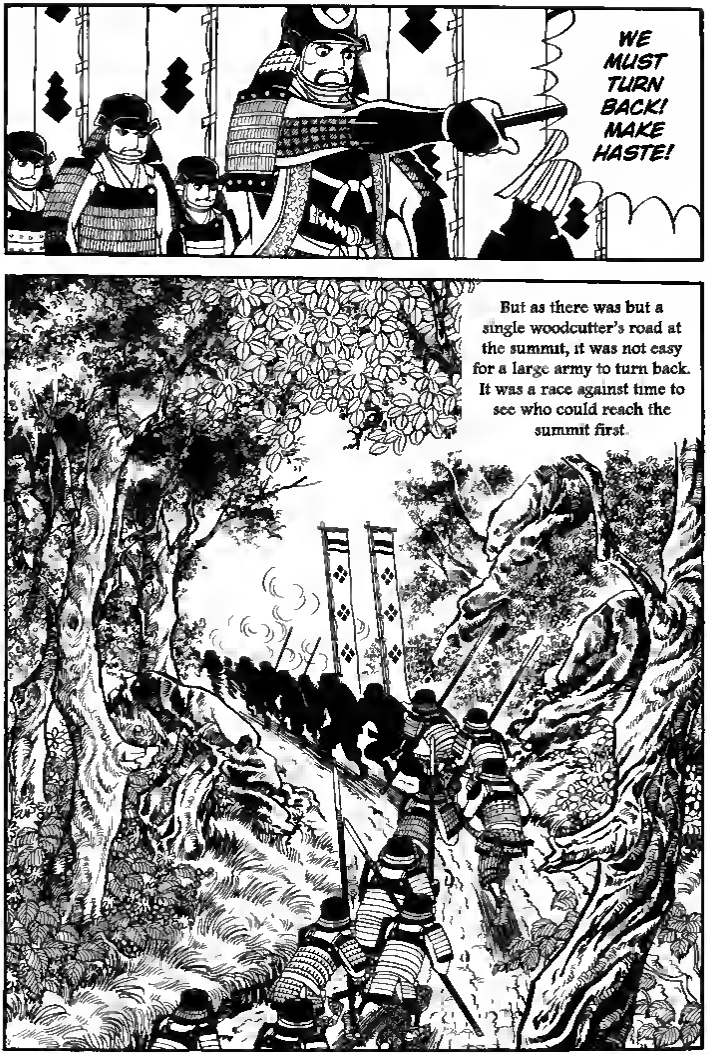

KOHAKUSAI, A DEFECTOR ONLY DEFECTS WHEN THE OTHER SIDE HAS THE ADVANTAGE. THEY WILL NOT DEFECT TO US WHEN THE TAKEDA ARE BEING SUPPRESSED, EVEN IF WE URGE THEM.
MY LORD! WHY DO YOU NOT URGE NISHINOMASA SHIROZAEMON AND MIMURA SURUGA-NO-KAMI TO DEFECT TO US?

THE ARMY MARCHING DOWNWARDS HAS THE ADVANTAGE OVER THE ONE MARCHING UPWARDS. WHOEVER SEIZES THE SUMMIT WILL WIN THIS WAR. WE MUST BE PATIENT.

ドッドッ
REPORT-ING IN!
SO HE'S ACTED.
OGASAWARA NAGATOKI HAS MOVED HIS MAIN FORCES TO KATTSURA PASS.

VERY WELL! OUR MAIN FORCES SHALL MARCH ON THE SUMMIT THROUGH THE NAKASEN HIGHWAY!

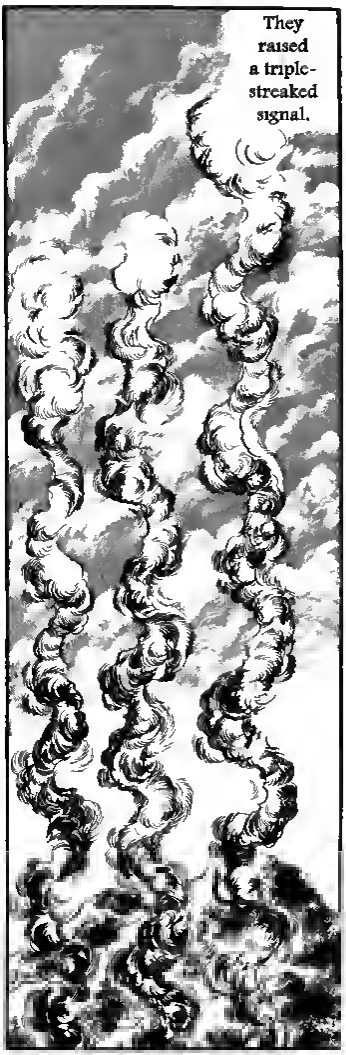

HUH?
THOSE ARE THE TAKEDA'S WAR DRUMS!
WHAT!?
REPORTING IN! THE TAKEDA'S MAIN FORCE IS MARCHING ON THE SUMMIT THROUGH THE NAKASEN HIGHWAY!

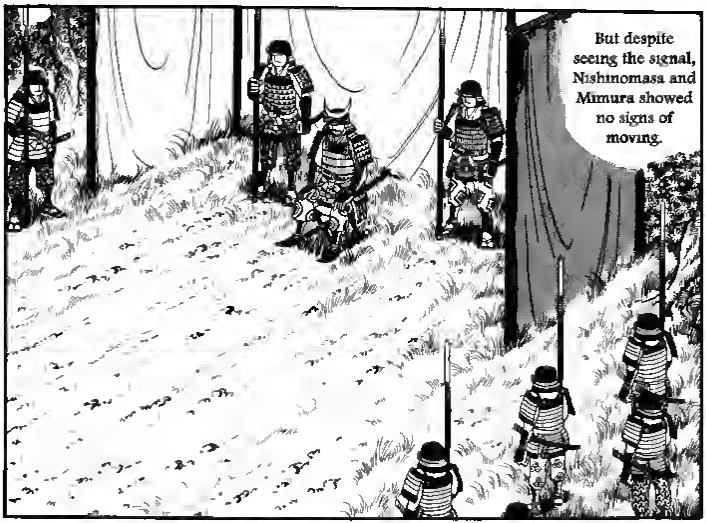

WE MUST TURN BACK! MAKE HASTE!
But as there was but a single woodcutter's road at the summit, it was not easy for a large army to turn back. It was a race against time to see who could reach the summit first.

The unit led by Obu Hyobu reached the summit first. The rifle squad was among them.
YES, MY LORD.
GOOD. WE WILL URGE NISHINOMASA AND MIMURA TO DEFECT. RAISE THE SIGNAL.

OHH! THAT'S THE SIGNAL!

NOW REMEMBER! IF NISHINOMASA AND MIMURA DO NOT DEFECT, WE ARE ORDERED TO FIRE UPON THEIR CAMPS!

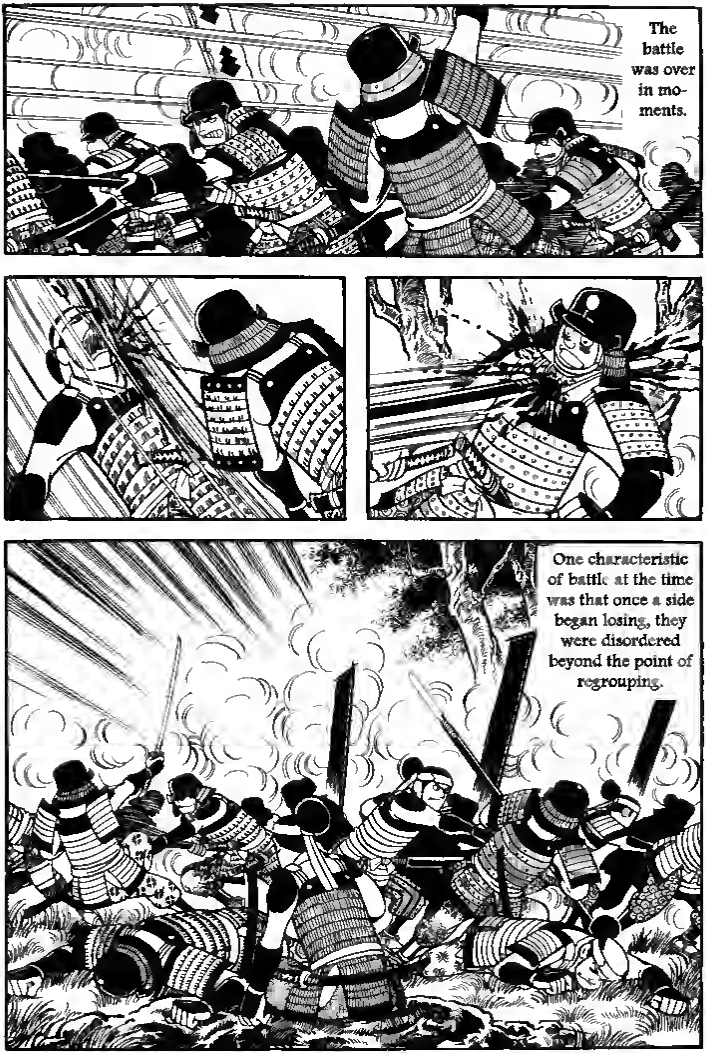

They raised a triple-streaked signal.

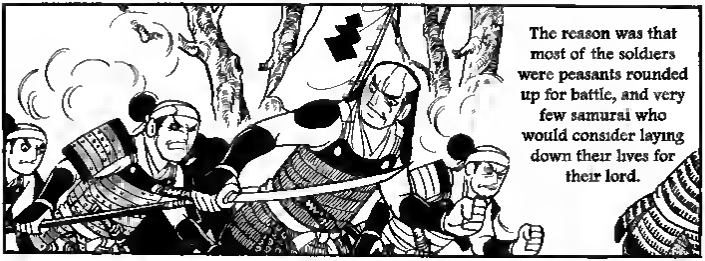

But despite seeing the signal, Nishinomasa and Mimura showed no signs of moving.

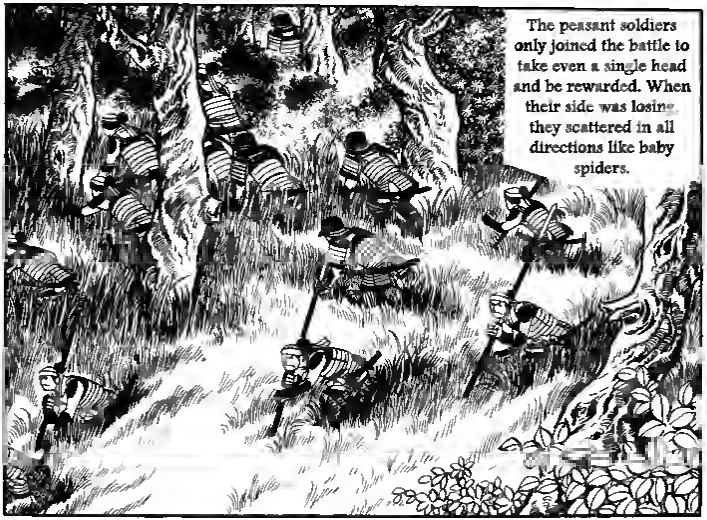
They seemed to be hesitating.

NOW! FIRE!
WAAAH!
UWAA ALIGH!

Nishinomasa and Mimura's camps were startled. This was the first time they had heard gunfire
They finally made up their minds. The armies of Nishinomasa and Mimura descended the mountain.
And assaulted the Ogasawara Army from behind.


The battle was over in moments.
One characteristic of battle at the time was that once a side began losing, they were disordered beyond the point of regrouping.

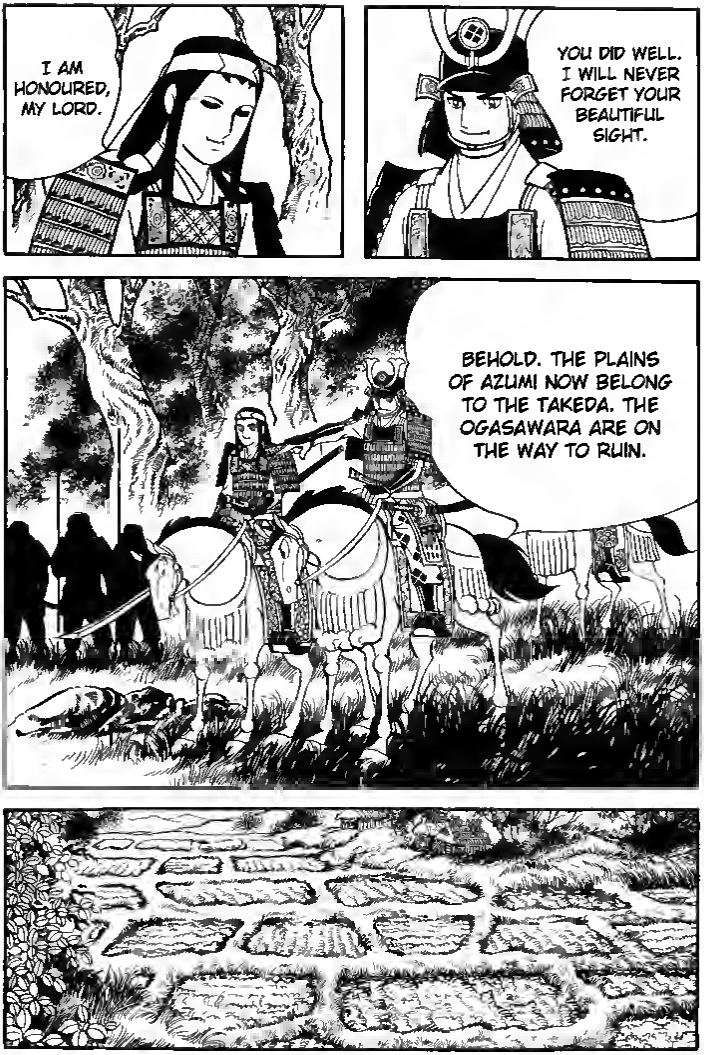

The reason was that most of the soldiers were peasants rounded up for battle, and very few samurai who would consider laying down their lives for their lord.

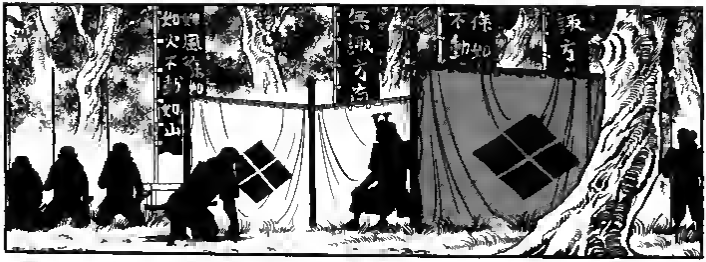

The peasant soldiers only joined the battle to take even a single head and be rewarded. When their side was losing they scattered in all directions like baby spiders.

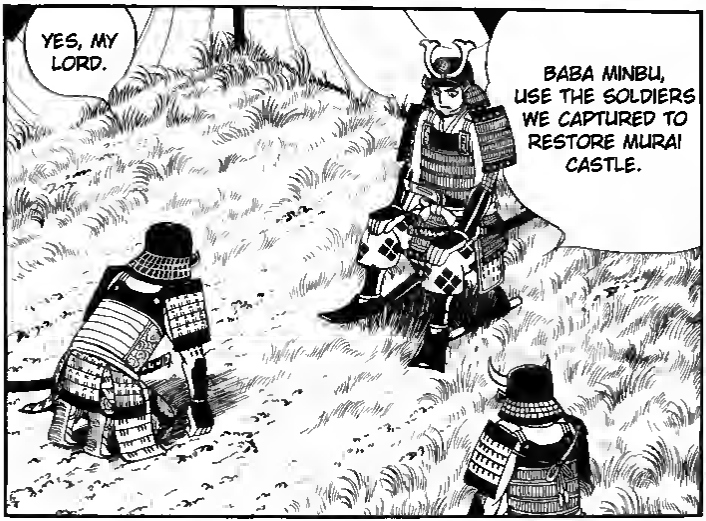
Ogasawara Nagatoki escaped to his stronghold at Hayashi Castle, barely alive.

エイエイ
オー
ワー

MY LORD.
SATOMI.


I AM HONOURED, MY LORD.
YOU DID WELL. I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR BEAUTIFUL SIGHT.
BEHOLD. THE PLAINS OF AZUMI NOW BELONG TO THE TAKEDA. THE OGASAWARA ARE ON THE WAY TO RUIN.




YES, MY LORD.
BABA MINBU, USE THE SOLDIERS WE CAPTURED TO RESTORE MURAI CASTLE.

YES, MY LORD.

ALL CAPTIVES WHO WORK UNTIL THE CASTLE'S COMPLETION MAY BE SET FREE. BUT IF ANYONE TRIES TO ESCAPE PARTWAY, SLAY THEM WITH NO MERCY.

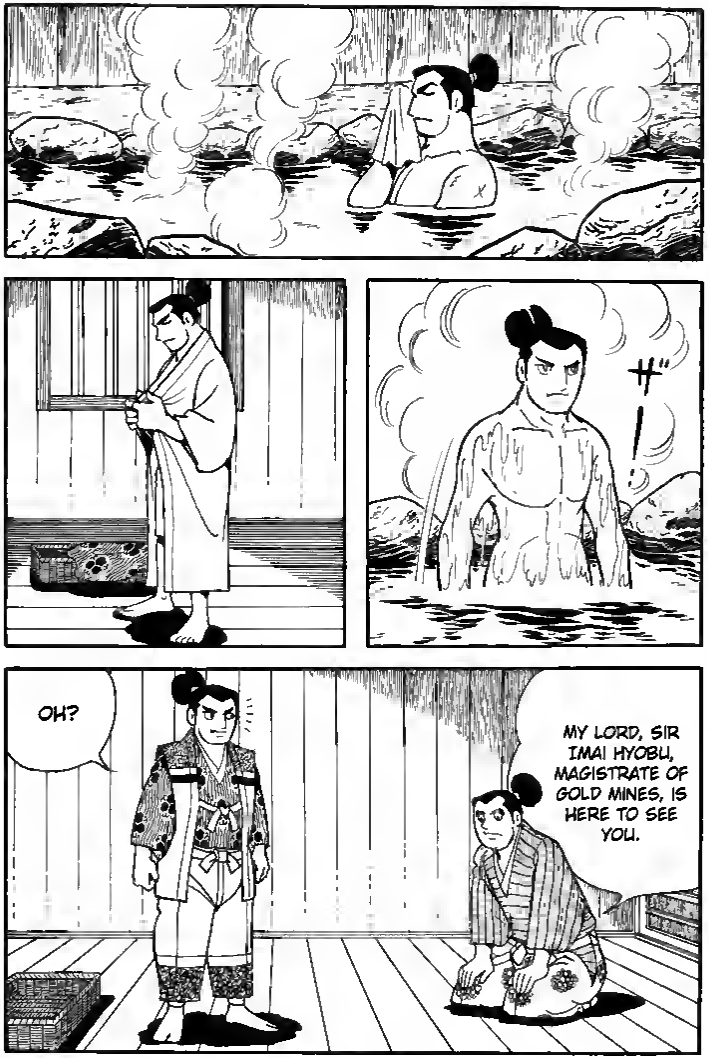
I KNOW, MY LORD.
MURAI CASTLE WILL BE A CRUCIAL POSITION. IT IS ONLY TWO RI (ABOUT 8KM) FROM HAYASHI CASTLE OF THE OGASAWARA CLAN.
I UNDER-STAND IN FULL.
IF WE ARE TO SEIZE ALL OF CENTRAL SHINANO, WE MUST FIRST SEIZE THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL SHINANO...
THEN CREATE A CASTLE TOWN. IF ANYONE LACKS MONEY, LEND THEM MONEY, AND MAKE THEIR TRIBUTE LIGHT. DO NOT SPARE ANY EXPENSE. IF YOU NEED MONEY, COME TAKE IT FROM KOFU.
MY MEN ARE MY CASTLE, MY MEN ARE MY WALLS, MY MEN ARE MY MOATS. PITY IS MY ALLY, RESENTMENT MY ENEMY...

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 28

Chapter 29: The Torchlight Strategy

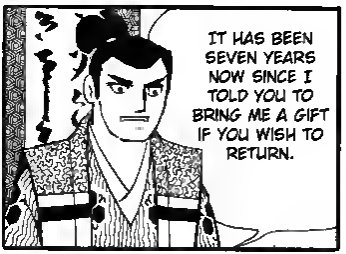

OH?
MY LORD, SIR IMAI HYOBU, MAGISTRATE OF GOLD MINES, IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

There waiting for him was Kamata Jurozaemon, one of the former magistrates.

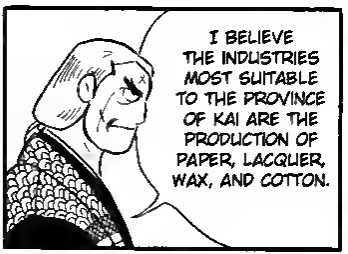
YES, MY LORD. IT HAS BEEN QUITE A LONG TIME.

ARE YOU NOT KAMATA JUROZAE-MON?

YES, MY LORD.

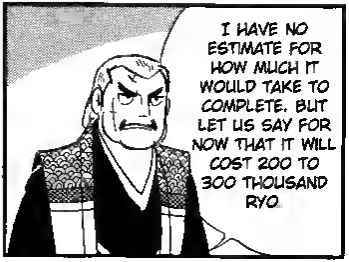

IT HAS BEEN SEVEN YEARS NOW SINCE I TOLD YOU TO BRING ME A GIFT IF YOU WISH TO RETURN.

I SEE. GOOD WORK. WHAT KINDS OF INDUSTRIES?


I BELIEVE THE INDUSTRIES MOST SUITABLE TO THE PROVINCE OF KAI ARE THE PRODUCTION OF PAPER, LACQUER, WAX, AND COTTON.

SIR KAMATA HAS TRAVELLED AROUND THE PROVINCES, AND HAS RETURNED WITH THE SECRETS TO MANY INDUSTRIES.

BUT THESE PRODUCTS MAINLY COME FROM MOUNTAINS AND FIELDS, AND COULD BE CALLED BYPRODUCTS. THE ONLY WAY TO INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF RICE AND BARLEY, OUR CHIEF SOURCES OF FOOD, AND MAKE OUR PROVINCE RICH, IS BY FLOOD CONTROL.
IT IS TRUE THAT THE MAIN RIVER OF KAI FLOODS FREQUENTLY. HAVE YOU COME BACK WITH A WAY FOR US TO ARRANGE THIS FLOOD CONTROL?"
EVERYBODY ALREADY KNOWS THAT.
ONLY ONE: WE MUST PATIENTLY CONSTRUCT AN EMBANKMENT TO DIVERT THE RIVER AND MAKE A PATH FOR IT.
THEY HAVE SAID SINCE THE TIME OF THE ANCIENTS THAT HE WHO RULES THE WATER RULES THE NATION I BELIEVE THAT WOULD APPLY TO KAI AS WELL.
INDEED, BUT SIMPLY KNOWING IT WILL NOT HELP. THE CONSTRUCTION IS TOO MASSIVE, AND THE PROFITS NOT IMMEDIATE ENOUGH, SO IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DONE.


I HAVE NO ESTIMATE FOR HOW MUCH IT WOULD TAKE TO COMPLETE. BUT LET US SAY FOR NOW THAT IT WILL COST 200 TO 300 THOUSAND RYO.

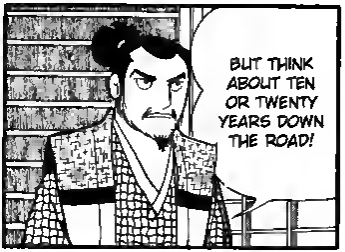
HOW MUCH WILL THE FLOOD-CONTROL WORKS COST?

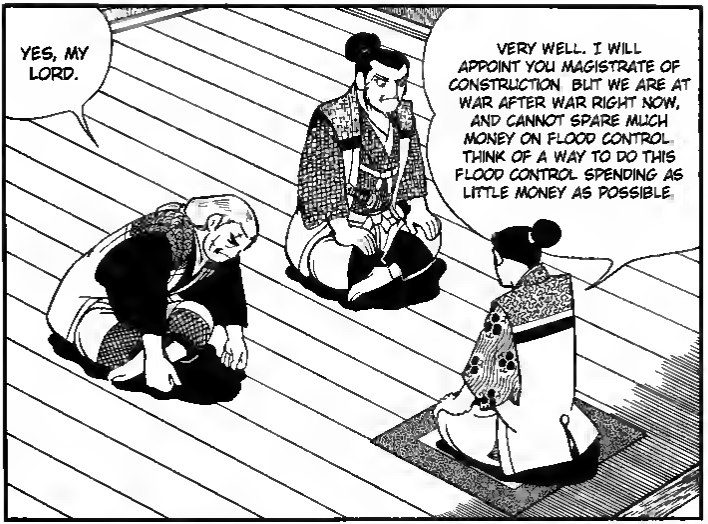
THE OUTPUT OF KUROKAWA GOLD MINE HAS EXCEEDED THE EXPECTED AMOUNT! AND WE CAN INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF THE GOLD MINE IF WE SEND IN MORE CAPTIVES!

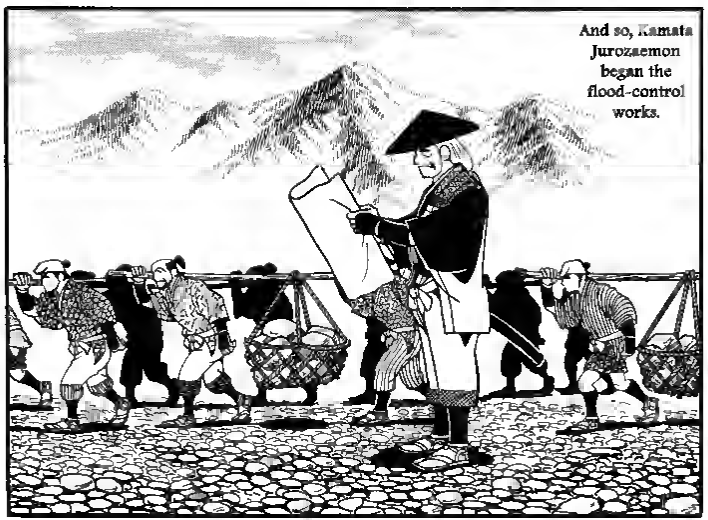
200 TO 300 THOU-SAND RYO!?

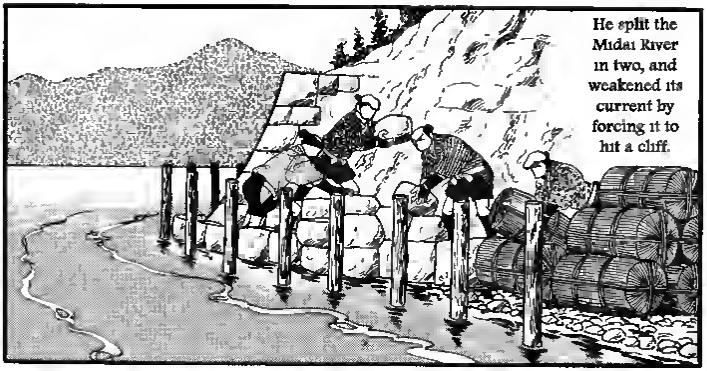
BUT WE NEED THE GOLD FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SHINANO. THAT PRICE IS FAR TOO STEEP.

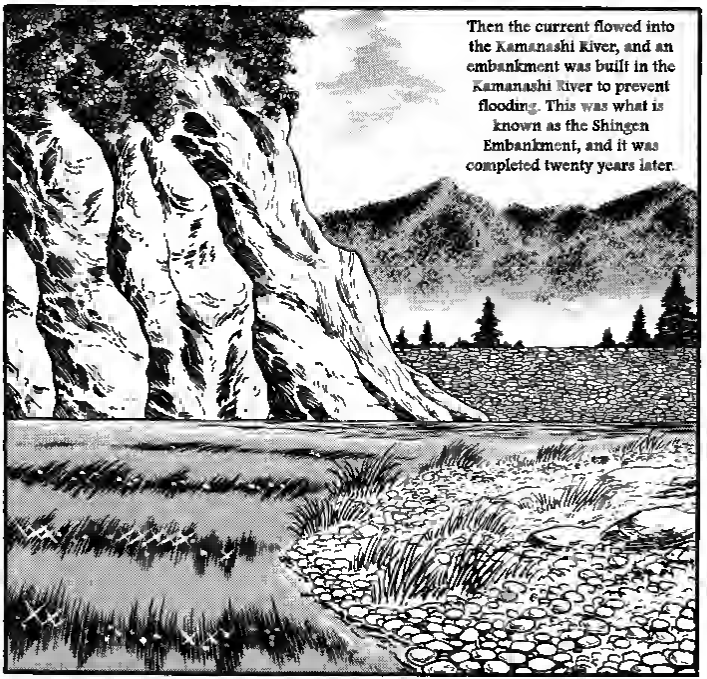
HMM...

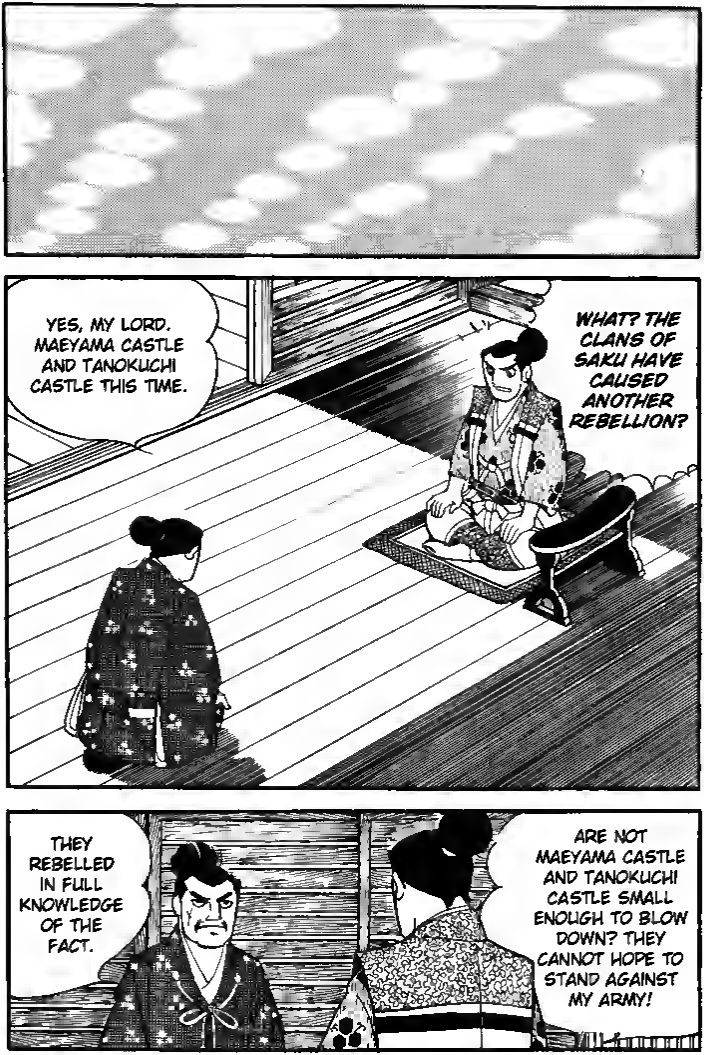

BUT THINK ABOUT TEN OR TWENTY YEARS DOWN THE ROAD!


YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL. I WILL APPOINT YOU MAGISTRATE OF CONSTRUCTION. BUT WE ARE AT WAR AFTER WAR RIGHT NOW, AND CANNOT SPARE MUCH MONEY ON FLOOD CONTROL. THINK OF A WAY TO DO THIS FLOOD CONTROL SPENDING AS LITTLE MONEY AS POSSIBLE.


And so, Kamata Jurozaemon began the flood-control works.


He split the Midai River in two, and weakened its current by forcing it to hit a cliff.


Then the current flowed into the Kamanashi River, and an embankment was built in the Kamanashi River to prevent flooding. This was what is known as the Shingen Embankment, and it was completed twenty years later.

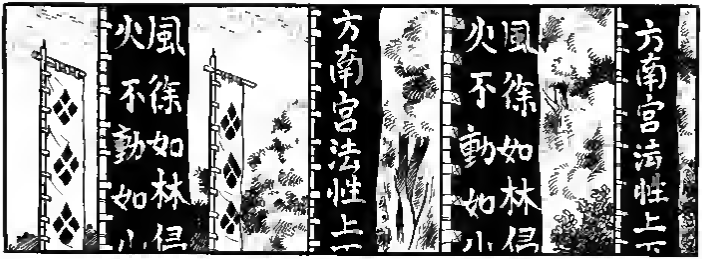

YES, MY LORD. MAEYAMA CASTLE AND TANOKUCHI CASTLE THIS TIME.
WHAT? THE CLANS OF SAKU HAVE CAUSED ANOTHER REBELLION?
THEY REBELLED IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACT.
ARE NOT MAEYAMA CASTLE AND TANOKUCHI CASTLE SMALL ENOUGH TO BLOW DOWN? THEY CANNOT HOPE TO STAND AGAINST MY ARMY!

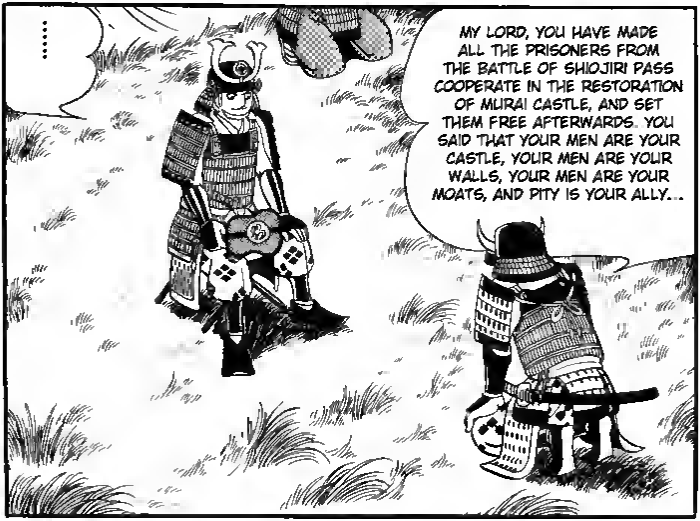
IT IS NOT SAKU THAT IS IRKSOME. IT IS THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE.
WHY ARE THE PEOPLE OF SAKU SO IRKSOME?
THE PEOPLE OF SAKU RESENT YOU FOR YOUR TREATMENT OF THE THREE THOUSAND SEVERED HEADS YOU PUT ON DISPLAY DURING THE SIEGE OF SHIGA CASTLE. IT IS A SMALL REGION, SO MANY OF THEM ARE INTERRELATED.
WHAT?
I WILL SHOW MERCY WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE SHOWN BUT I REFUSE TO SHOW ANY MERCY THOSE WHO WILL NOT ACCEPT IT.
HMM...
YES, MY LORD!
GIVE THE ORDER TO MARCH UPON THEM!

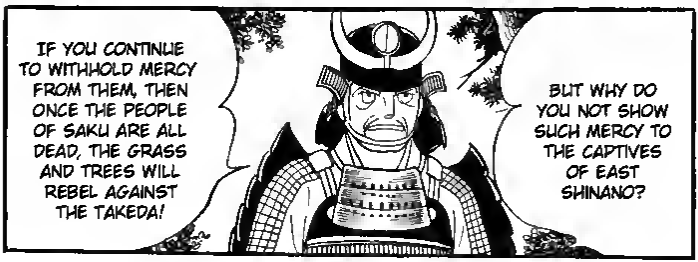
On September 1, Harunobu began his sweep of the anti-Takeda forces.

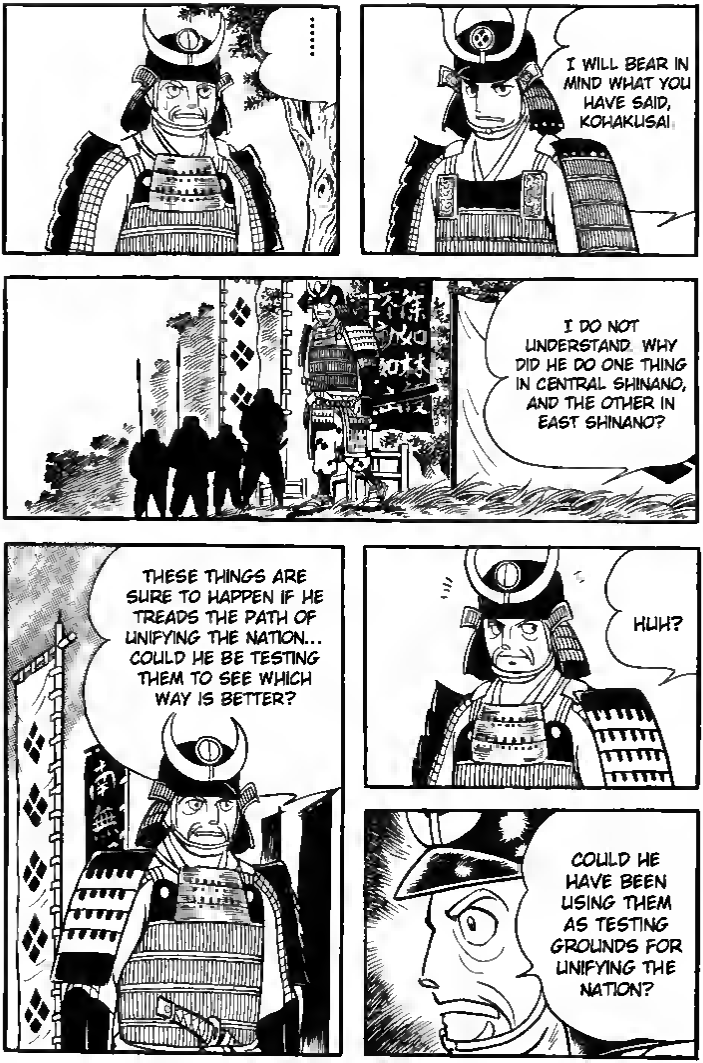
Naturally, Macyama Castle and Tanokuchi Castle were no match for the Takeda

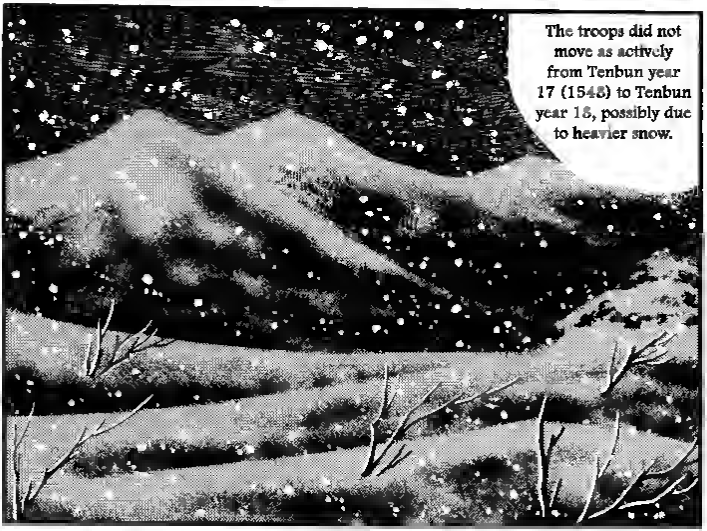
The generals of Saku were slain one after another
As Harunobu continued his march, he took twelve castles and fortresses
And all those who surrendered, men and women, were sent as miners to Kurokawa Gold Mine.

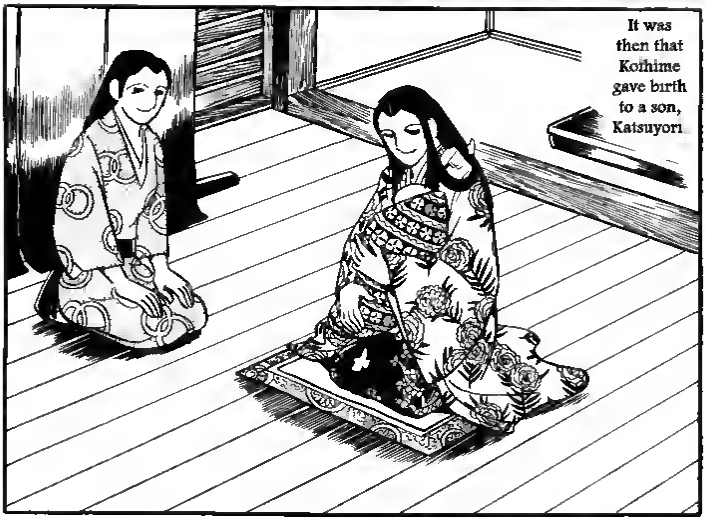

風徐如林侵
火不動如山
方南宮法性上

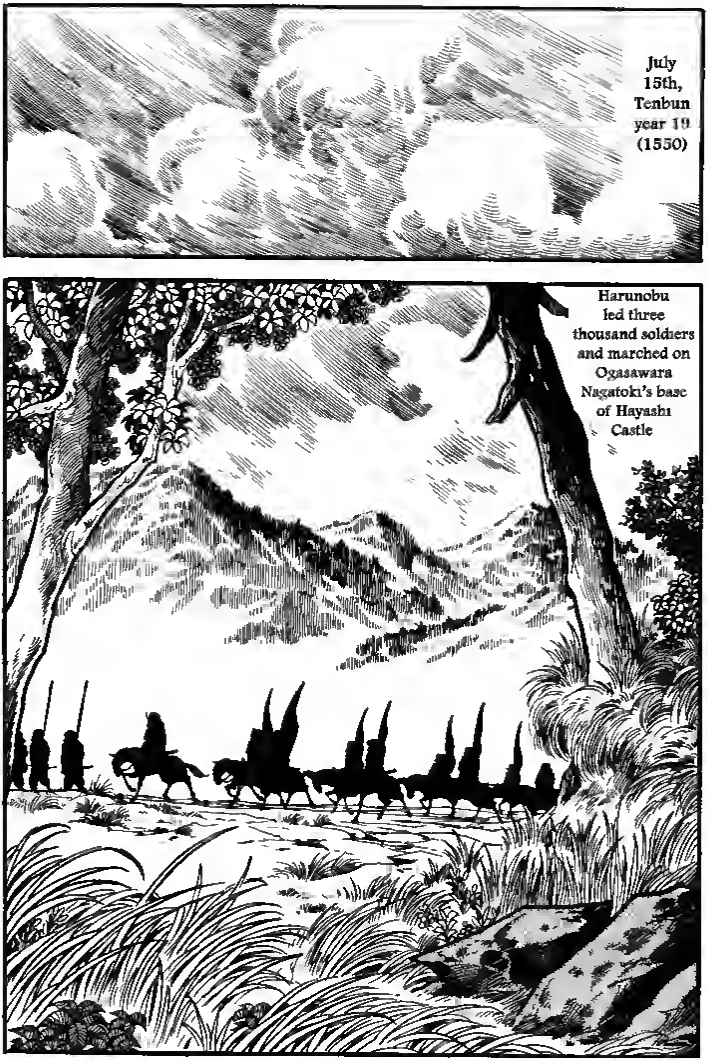

……
MY LORD, YOU HAVE MADE ALL THE PRISONERS FROM THE BATTLE OF SHIOJIRI PASS COOPERATE IN THE RESTORATION OF MURAI CASTLE, AND SET THEM FREE AFTERWARDS. YOU SAID THAT YOUR MEN ARE YOUR CASTLE, YOUR MEN ARE YOUR WALLS, YOUR MEN ARE YOUR MOATS, AND PITY IS YOUR ALLY...

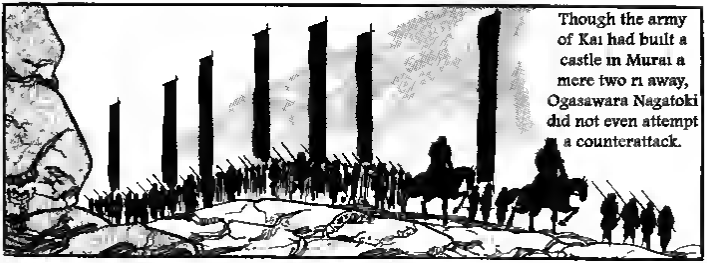

IF YOU CONTINUE TO WITHHOLD MERCY FROM THEM, THEN ONCE THE PEOPLE OF SAKU ARE ALL DEAD, THE GRASS AND TREES WILL REBEL AGAINST THE TAKEDA!
BUT WHY DO YOU NOT SHOW SUCH MERCY TO THE CAPTIVES OF EAST SHINANO?

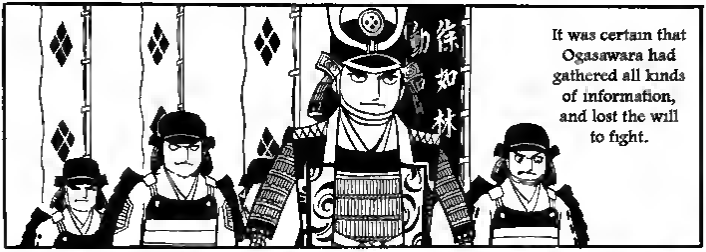

.....
I WILL BEAR IN MIND WHAT YOU HAVE SAID, KOHAKUSAI.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND. WHY DID HE DO ONE THING IN CENTRAL SHINANO, AND THE OTHER IN EAST SHINANO?
THESE THINGS ARE SURE TO HAPPEN IF HE TREADS THE PATH OF UNIFYING THE NATION... COULD HE BE TESTING THEM TO SEE WHICH WAY IS BETTER?
HUH?
COULD HE HAVE BEEN USING THEM AS TESTING GROUNDS FOR UNIFYING THE NATION?

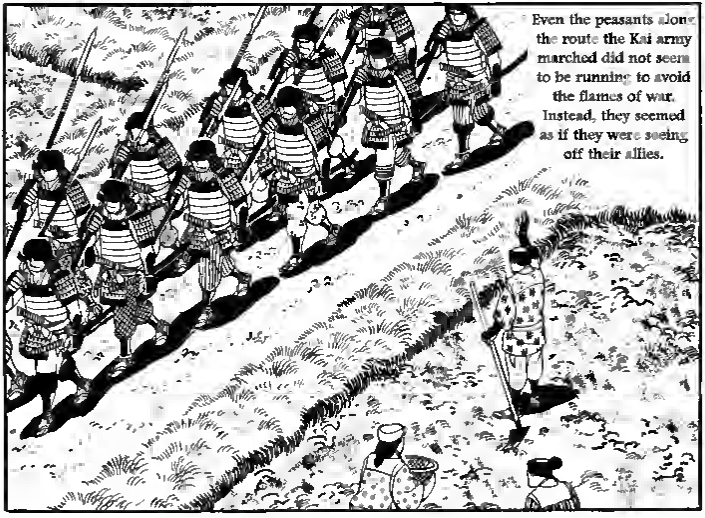

The troops did not move as actively from Tenbun year 17 (1548) to Tenbun year 18, possibly due to heavier snow.


It was then that Kohime gave birth to a son, Katsuyori.

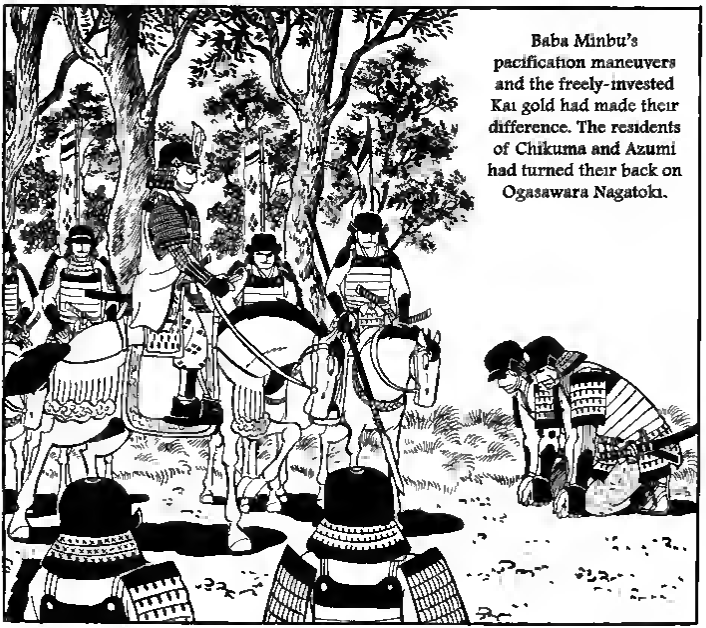

July 15th, Tenbun year 19 (1550)
Harunobu led three thousand soldiers and marched on Ogasawara Nagatoki's base of Hayashi Castle


Though the army of Kai had built a castle in Murai a mere two ri away, Ogasawara Nagatoki did not even attempt a counterattack.


It was certain that Ogasawara had gathered all kinds of information, and lost the will to fight.

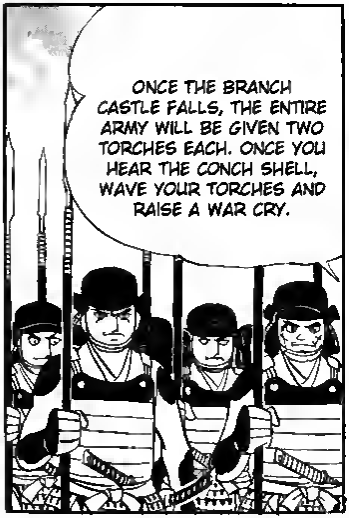

Even the peasants along the route the Kai army marched did not seem to be running to avoid the flames of war. Instead, they seemed as if they were seeing off their allies.

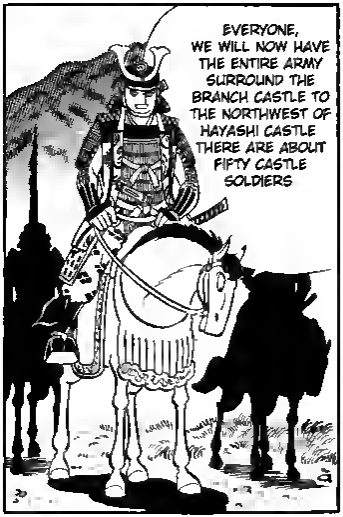
Furthermore, the local clans of Chikuma and Azumi sent cavalry in tens and twenties to join Harunobu

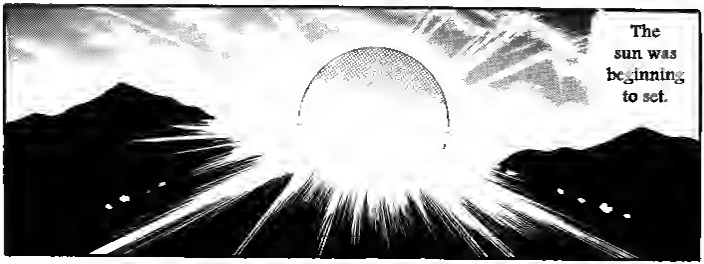

Baba Minbu's pacification maneuvers and the freely-invested Kai gold had made their difference. The residents of Chikuma and Azumi had turned their back on Ogasawara Nagatoki.

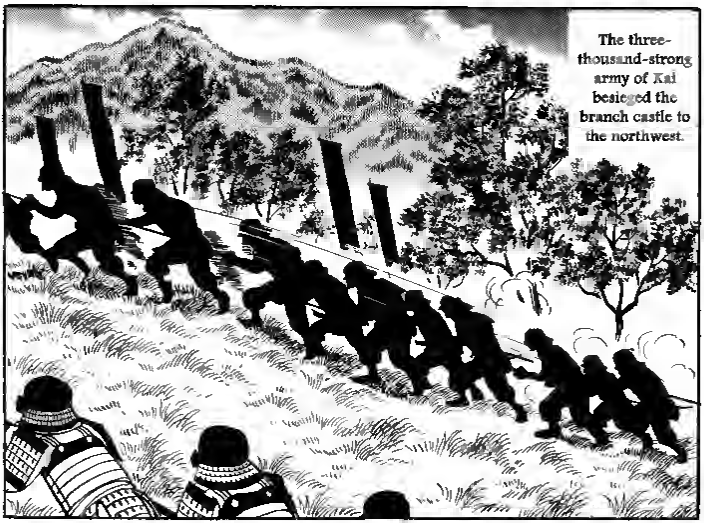
I BELIEVE IT IS FAR MORE PROFITABLE TO WIN A DISAPPOINTING WAR WITHOUT BLOODSHED THAN TO SHED BLOOD.
THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE A DISAPPOINTING WAR.

THEN I WILL WAGE A WAR WITHOUT BLOODSHED.


ONCE THE BRANCH CASTLE FALLS, THE ENTIRE ARMY WILL BE GIVEN TWO TORCHES EACH. ONCE YOU HEAR THE CONCH SHELL, WAVE YOUR TORCHES AND RAISE A WAR CRY.

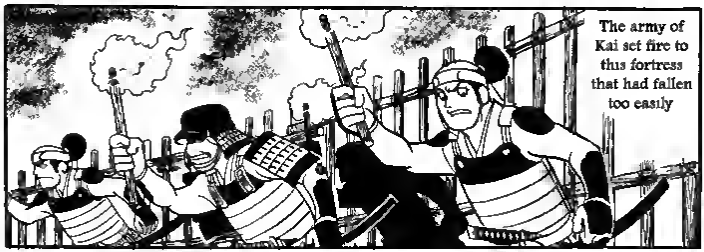

EVERYONE, WE WILL NOW HAVE THE ENTIRE ARMY SURROUND THE BRANCH CASTLE TO THE NORTHWEST OF HAYASHI CASTLE THERE ARE ABOUT FIFTY CASTLE SOLDIERS

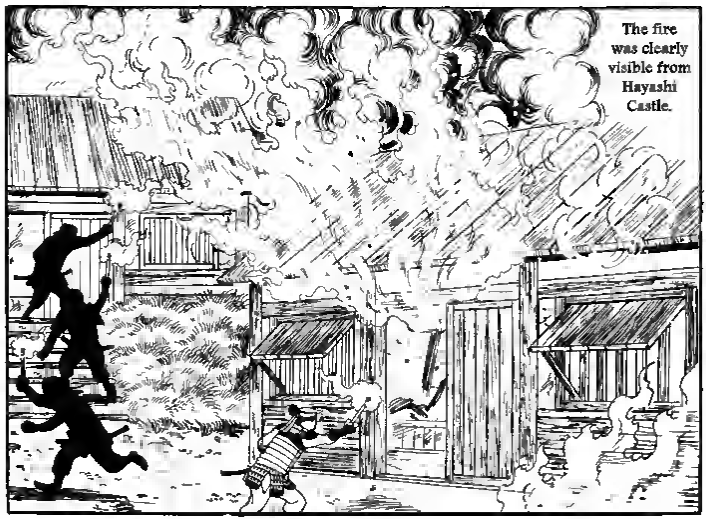

The sun was beginning to set.


The three-thousand-strong army of Kai besieged the branch castle to the northwest.

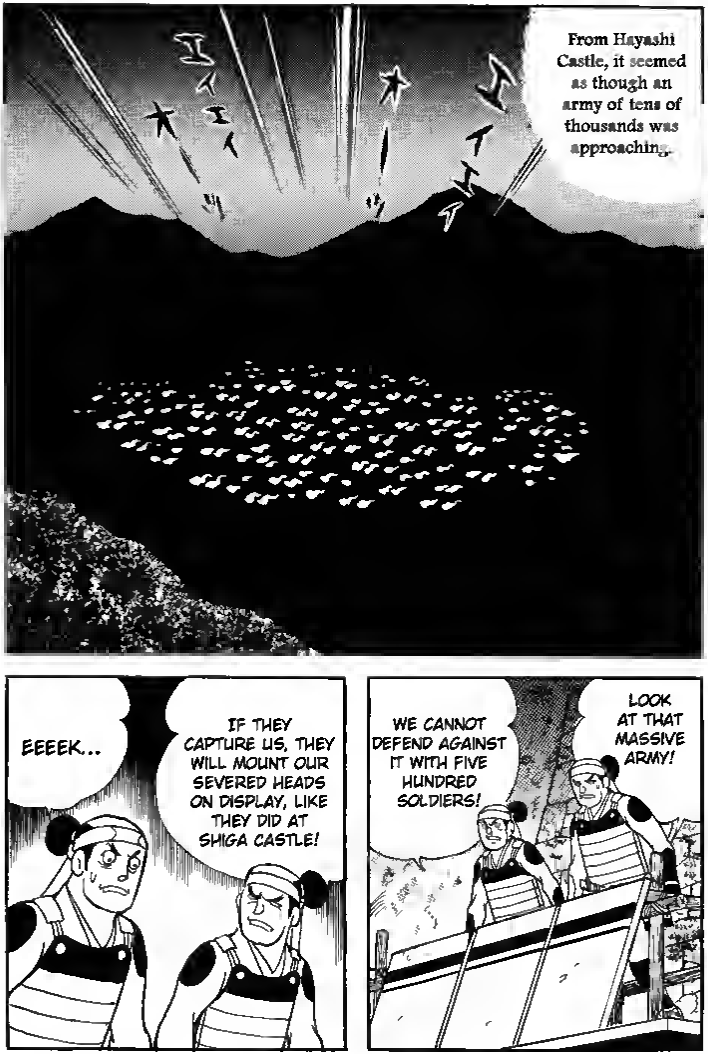
It was the Ogasawara soldiers defending the castle that were shocked They never even considered the thought that the entire army of Kai would besiege a castle guarded by a mere fifty

The Ogasawara soldiers fled in a panic.


The army of Kai set fire to this fortress that had fallen too easily

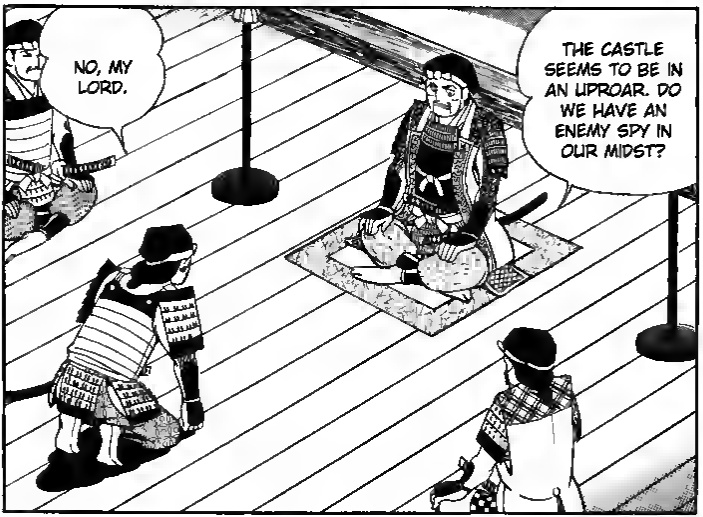

The fire was clearly visible from Hayashi Castle.

GOOD! LIGHT YOUR TORCHES!
エイエイ
オー
エイエイ
オー
NOW! LIFT YOUR TORCHES AND RAISE A WAR CRY!


From Hayashi Castle, it seemed as though an army of tens of thousands was approaching...
EEEEK...
IF THEY CAPTURE US, THEY WILL MOUNT OUR SEVERED HEADS ON DISPLAY, LIKE THEY DID AT SHIGA CASTLE!
WE CANNOT DEFEND AGAINST IT WITH FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS!
LOOK AT THAT MASSIVE ARMY!

WE HAD BETTER RUN!
WE STAND NO CHANCE!

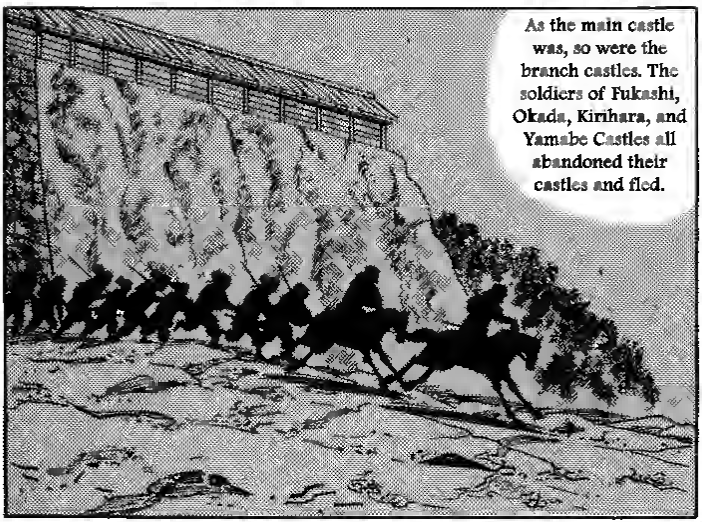
As soon as one turned tail, the castle soldiers, gripped by fear, all suddenly ran

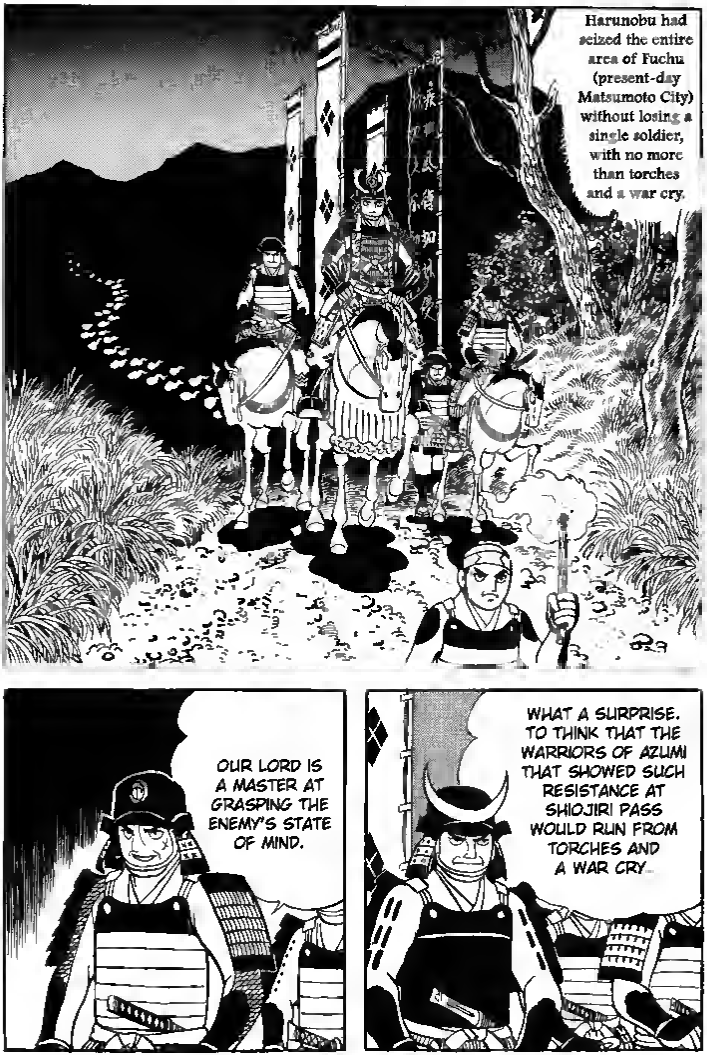

NO, MY LORD.
THE CASTLE SEEMS TO BE IN AN UPROAR. DO WE HAVE AN ENEMY SPY IN OUR MIDST?

HMPF. EVEN SHOULD THE TAKEDA SURROUND MY CASTLE, WE CAN LAST FOR TWO OR THREE MONTHS. IN THE MEANTIME, MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO OF NORTH SHINANO WILL STRIKE AT CHIISAGATA, AND SAKU WILL REBEL. THEN THE KAI ARMY WILL HAVE TO END THE SIEGE.
OVER HALF OF THE CASTLE SOLDIERS HAVE FLED!
REPORTING IN!
THERE ARE SIGNS THAT EVEN MORE WILL FOLLOW!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE CASTLE SOLDIERS FLED FROM THOSE TORCHES AND WAR CRIES?
WHAT!?

WE CANNOT FIGHT SUCH A SIEGE. IT WOULD BE BETTER IF MY LORD WOULD LEAVE THIS CASTLE...
H-HOW COULD THIS BE?
BUT IF YOU ARE SLAIN HERE, THE OGASAWARA CLAN WILL BE OVER...
ARE YOU SUGGESTING I ABANDON MY ANCESTORS' CASTLE!?
HMM... MY RETURN, EH?
I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD RETREAT FOR NOW AND PLOT YOUR RETURN.
THAT WILL BE FOR THE BEST.
VERY WELL THEN. I WILL SEEK REFUGE FROM MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO.

Ogasawara Nagatoki fled in a panic.


As the main castle was, so were the branch castles. The soldiers of Fukushi, Okada, Kirihara, and Yamabe Castles all abandoned their castles and fled.

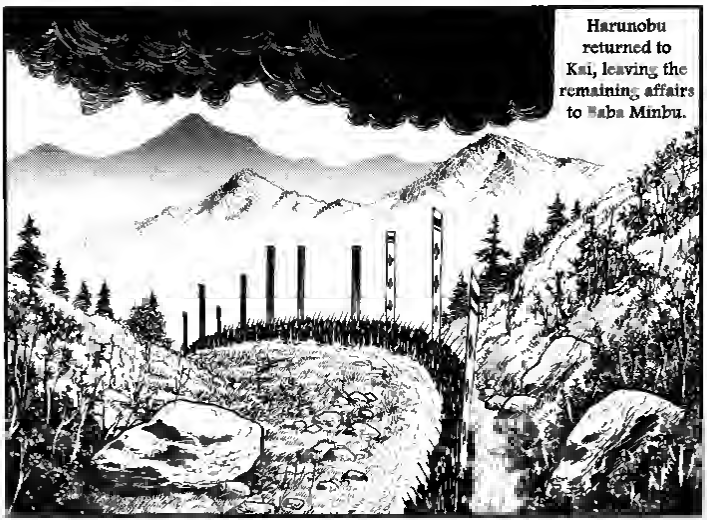

Harunobu had seized the entire area of Fuchu (present-day Matsumoto City) without losing a single soldier, with no more than torches and a war cry.
OUR LORD IS A MASTER AT GRASPING THE ENEMY'S STATE OF MIND.
WHAT A SURPRISE. TO THINK THAT THE WARRIORS OF AZUMI THAT SHOWED SUCH RESISTANCE AT SHIOJIRI PASS WOULD RUN FROM TORCHES AND A WAR CRY...

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 29

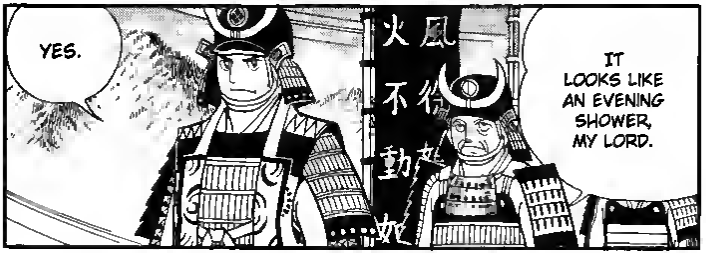
Chapter 30:
The Ruin of Toishi



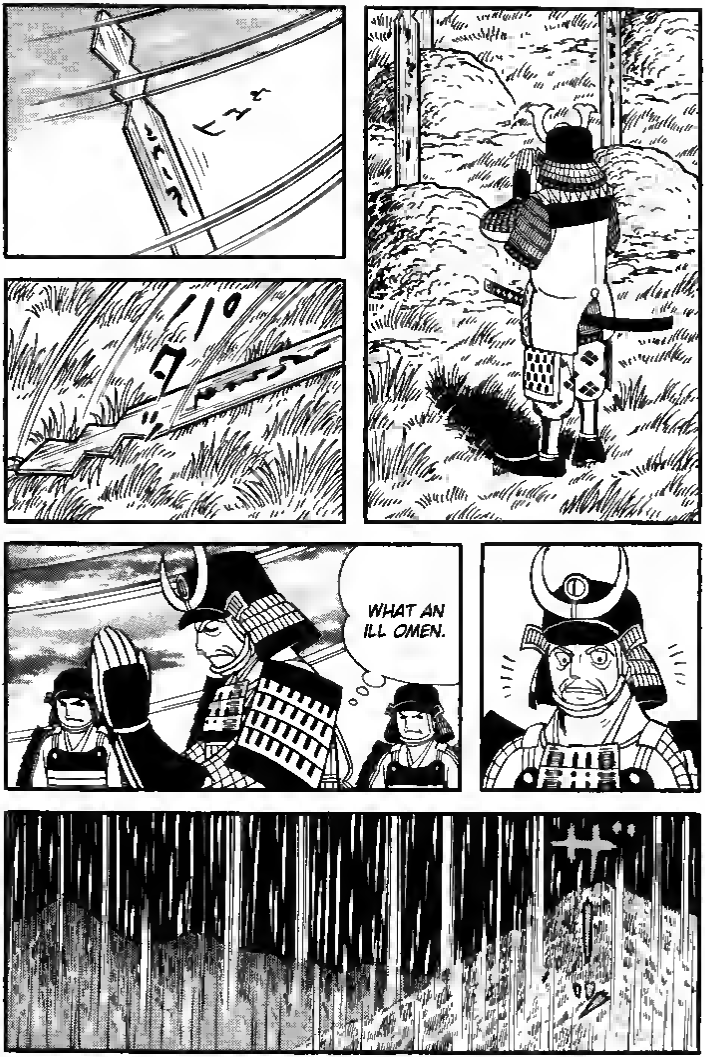
YES, MY LORD. I AM SURE THEY WILL REJOICE AT YOUR VICTORY.

KOHAKUSAI, I WISH TO VISIT THE GRAVES OF THE FALLEN SOLDIERS AT SHIOJIRI PASS.

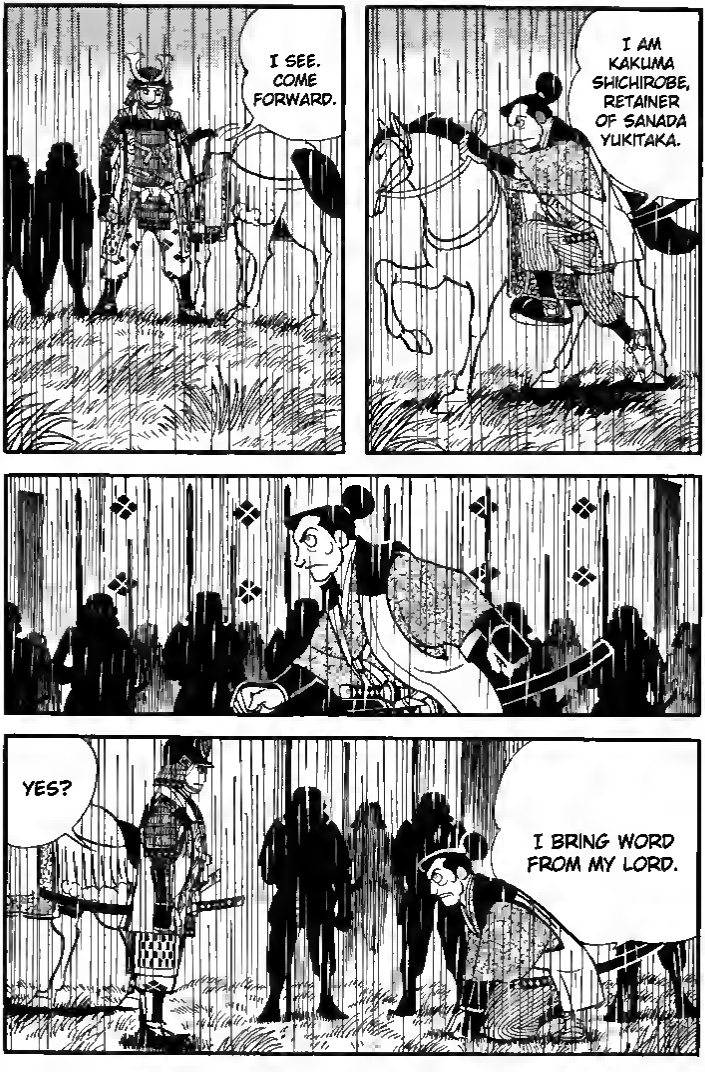
ゴロゴロ…


YES.
火風不徐動如林
IT LOOKS LIKE AN EVENING SHOWER, MY LORD.

YOUR DEATHS HAVE NOT BEEN IN VAIN. YOU MAY REST IN PEACE.


WHAT AN ILL OMEN.

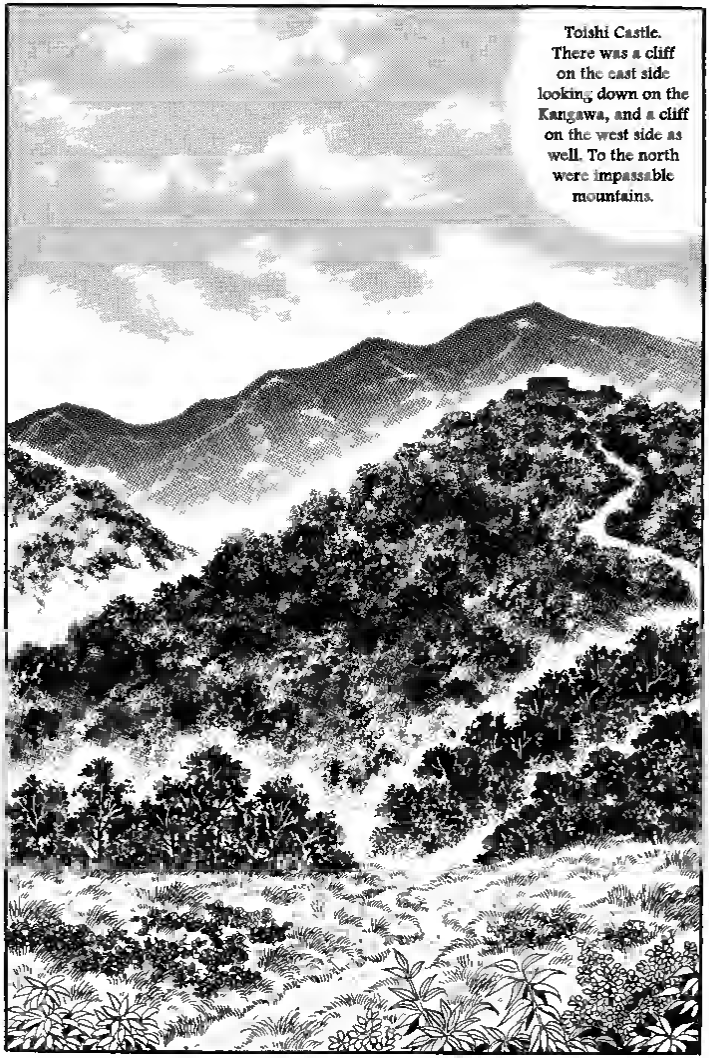
I KNOW.
MY LORD, YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO FALL ILL AGAIN.
HUH?


I SEE. COME FORWARD.
I AM KAKUMA SHICHIROBE, RETAINER OF SANADA YUKITAKA.
YES?
I BRING WORD FROM MY LORD.

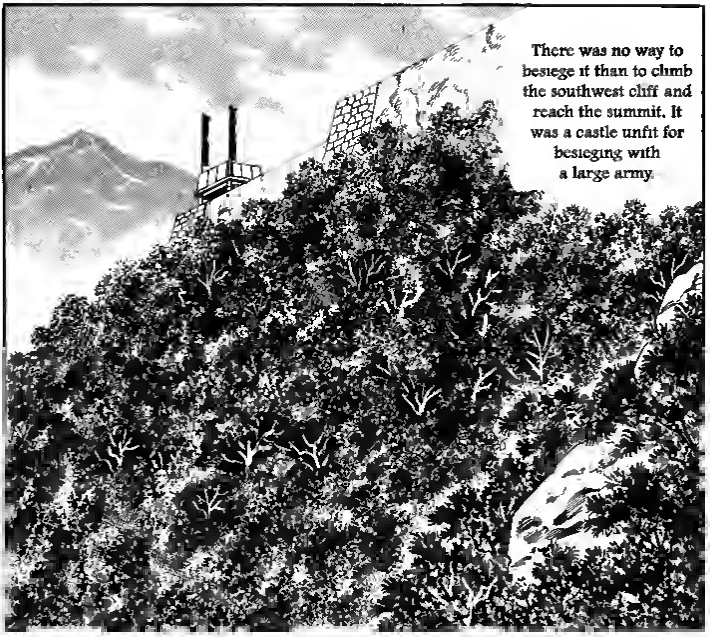
THERE ARE ALSO SIGNS THAT THERE ARE MORE AND MORE GENERALS OF NORTH SHINANO SEEKING TO DEFECT TO US
WE ALSO EXPECT TAKANASHI MASANORI, SAKAKI MORIMASA, AND TERAO SHIGEYORI OF INNER SHINANO TO JOIN US WITHIN A DAY OR TWO.
WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT PRIEST SEINO OF HAKOSHINA DISTRICT AND SUDA SHINZAEMON, LORD OF FUKUSHIMA CASTLE OF TAKAI DISTRICT, WISH TO JOIN OUR SIDE
INTERESTING. EVEN THE GENERALS OF NORTH SHINANO ARE LOOKING TO DEFECT.
VERY WELL, I SHALL LEAD THE ENTIRE ARMY ACROSS WADA PASS, TO CAPTURE MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO'S MAIN STRONGHOLD OF TOISHI CASTLE. RETURN AT ONCE TO INFORM YUKITAKA.

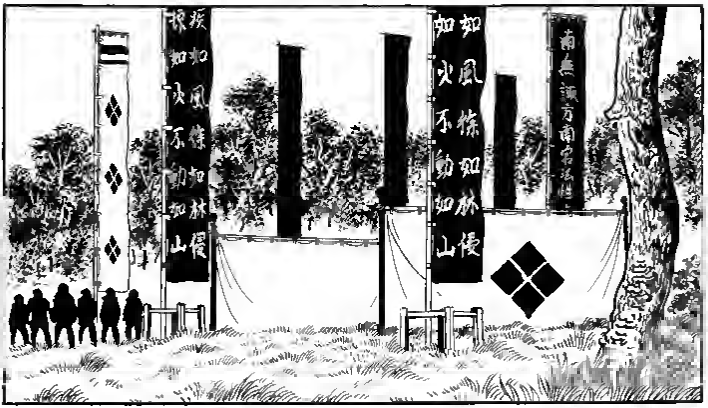
YES, MY LORD. I WILL TELL HIM SO.
MY LORD, SUPPRESSING THE MURAKAMI WAS NOT PART OF THIS EXPEDITION!
I KNOW IT WAS NOT BUT MY ARMY MADE IT OUT OF THIS BATTLE UNSCATHED, SO WE SHOULD USE THIS MOMENTUM TO TAKE THEM DOWN
BUT YOU ONLY GO TO WAR WHEN YOU HAVE EVERYTHING CAREFULLY PREPARED! THIS IS TOO SUDDEN A CHANGE!
I MUST QUASH THEM SOONER OR LATER. AND IF I CAPTURE TOISHI CASTLE, MORE OF THE CLANS OF NORTH SHINANO WILL FOLLOW SUIT.

BUT PRIEST SEINO AND SUDA SHINZAEMON, WHO PROMISED TO DEFECT, ARE AT THE CENTER OF THE MURAKAMI'S FORCES! WOULD IT NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE IF YOU HAD SANADA YUKITAKA SEND THEM MORE MONEY SO THEY WOULD PLOT THE MURAKAMI'S SELF-DESTRUCTION?
.....
I AM SAYING I WILL AID IN THEIR SELF-DESTRUCTION.
RIGHT THEN, WE WILL SEND THE ENTIRE ARMY TO TOISHI CASTLE!



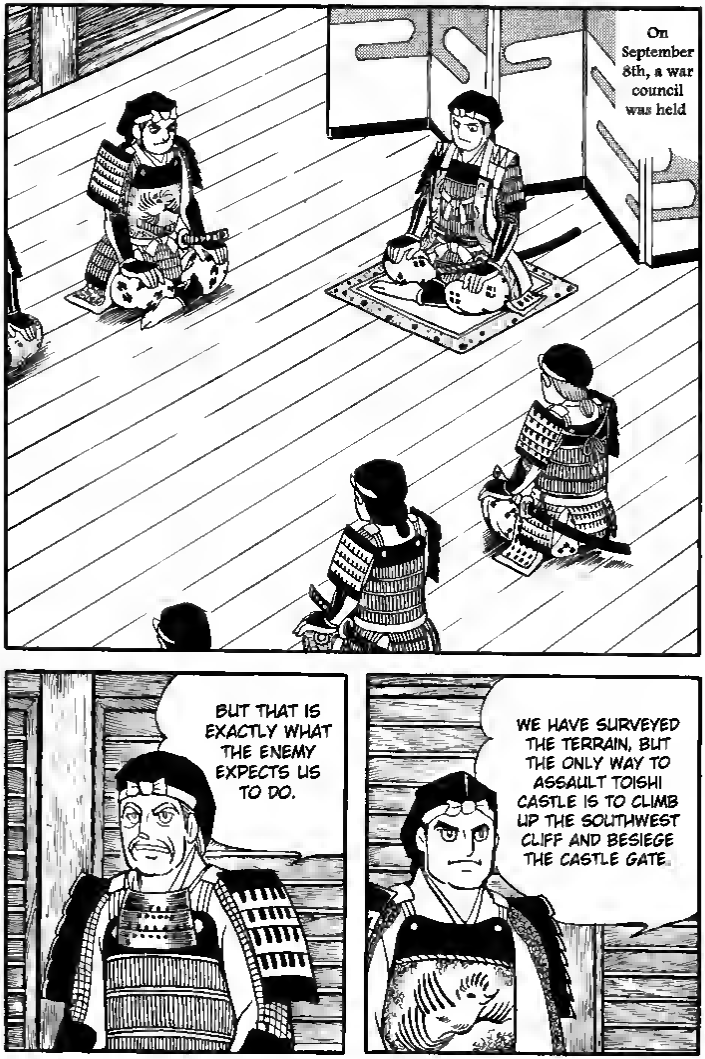
Toishi Castle. There was a cliff on the east side looking down on the Kangawa, and a cliff on the west side as well. To the north were impassable mountains.


There was no way to besiege it than to climb the southwest cliff and reach the summit. It was a castle unfit for besieging with a large army.


疾如風徐如林侵
掠如火不動如山
如風徐如林侵
如火不動如山
南無諏方南宮法性

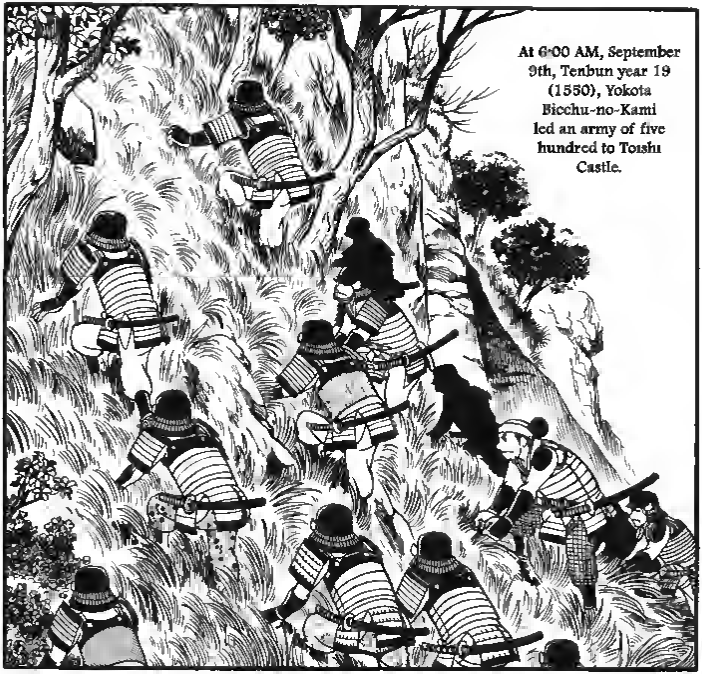
HOW MANY SOLDIERS HAVE GARRISONED IN TOISHI CASTLE?
THE CASTLE IS DEFENDED BY THE THREE OFFICERS, YAMADA KUNIMASA, AZUMA KIYOTSUNA, AND YAZAWA FUSASHIGE, WITH APPROXIMATELY FIVE HUNDRED CASTLE SOLDIERS, MY LORD.
SAKU ...
AND HALF OF THE SOLDIERS ARE MEN OF SAKU.
I SEE SO WE CANNOT CUT OFF THEIR WATER SUPPLY
THEY HAVE PLENTY OF SUPPLIES IN STORE, AND A WELL IN THE CASTLE WALLS.

WHAT? RIFLES?
THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A RECENT SHIPMENT OF ABOUT TWENTY RIFLES TO THE CASTLE.
I HAVE HEARD THAT THEY WERE GIVEN BY NAGAO KAGETORA (UESUGI KENSHIN)
BUT RIFLES CANNOT BE OBTAINED SO EASILY! WHO SENT THEM?
WHO TOLD YOU?
THE PEASANTS WHO WERE BRINGING IN THE FOOD SUPPLY.
THERE'S KAGETORA AGAIN. JUST WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE?
NAGAO KAGETORA OF ECHIGO ?

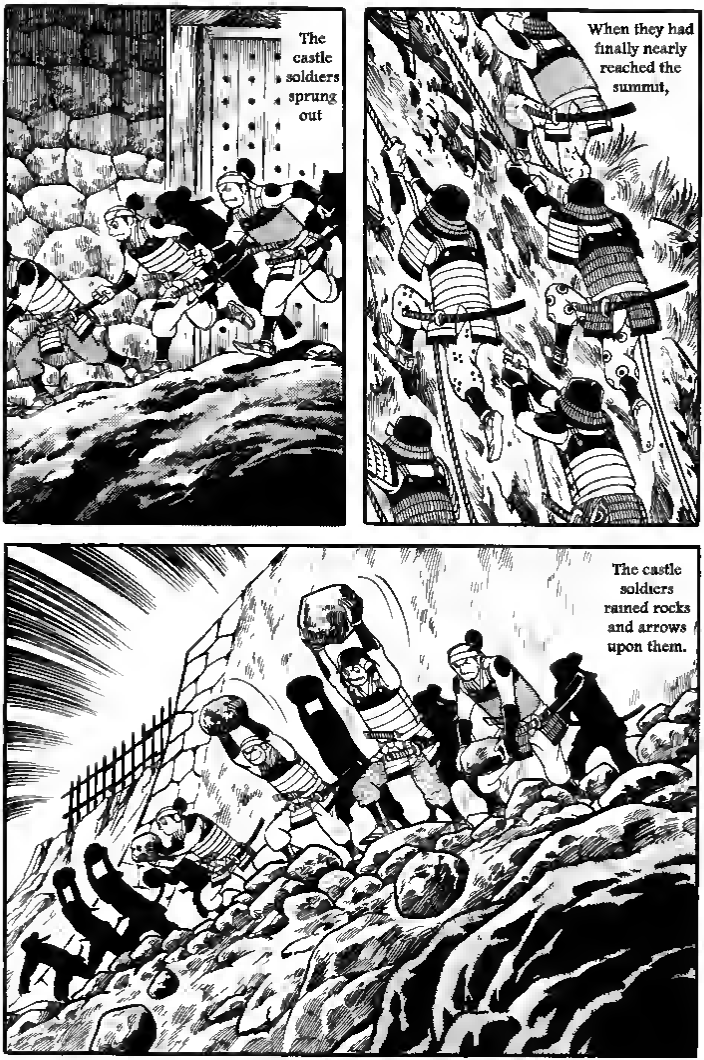

On September 8th, a war council was held
WE HAVE SURVEYED THE TERRAIN, BUT THE ONLY WAY TO ASSAULT TOISHI CASTLE IS TO CLIMB UP THE SOUTHWEST CLIFF AND BESIEGE THE CASTLE GATE.
BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE ENEMY EXPECTS US TO DO.

I FEEL THE SAME. IF WE ASSAULT THE CASTLE, WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES FOR CONSIDERABLE LOSSES.
I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT BESIEGE TOISHI CASTLE BY FORCE, BUT SURROUND IT AND HAVE OUR MAIN FORCES ATTACK THE MURAKAMI'S DOMAIN TO CAUSE UNREST AMONG THE PEOPLE.
ALL THAT REMAINS IS THE MASTER'S DECISION.
THAT WILL MAKE THEM WANT TO TRUST MURAKAMI AND HIS SUPPORTER.
IF WE CHOOSE NOT TO ATTACK TOISHI CASTLE OUT OF FEAR, AND INSTEAD RAVAGE THE MURAKAMI'S DOMAIN LIKE BANDITS, THE PEOPLE OF NORTH AND EAST SHINANO WILL DESPISE THE TAKEDA.

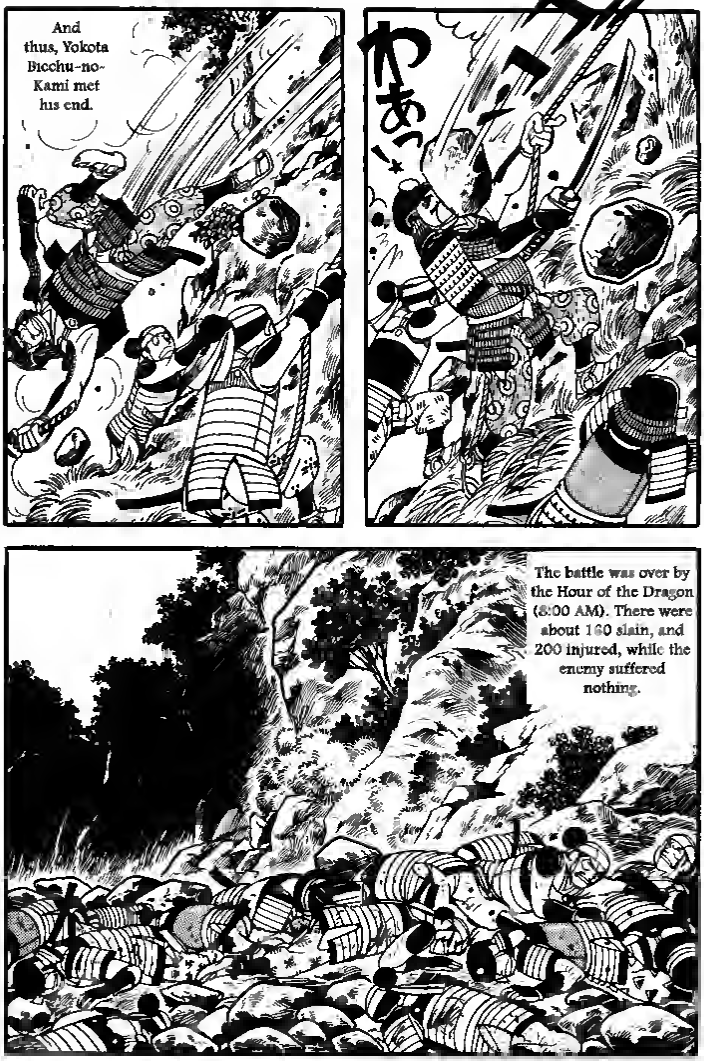
NAGAO KAGETORA OF ECHIGO.
WHICH SUPPORTER?
I DO NOT KNOW. I AM HAVING YAMAMOTO KANSUKE LOOK INTO HIM.
WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE?
NAGAO KAGETORA?
YES, MY LORD.
EITHER WAY, WE BESIEGE TOISHI CASTLE AT DAWN.


At 6:00 AM, September 9th, Tenbun year 19 (1550), Yokota Bicchu-no-Kami led an army of five hundred to Toshu Castle.

The cliff was steep, and the Takeda army had a hard time climbing it


The castle soldiers sprung out
When they had finally nearly reached the summit,
The castle soldiers rained rocks and arrows upon them.

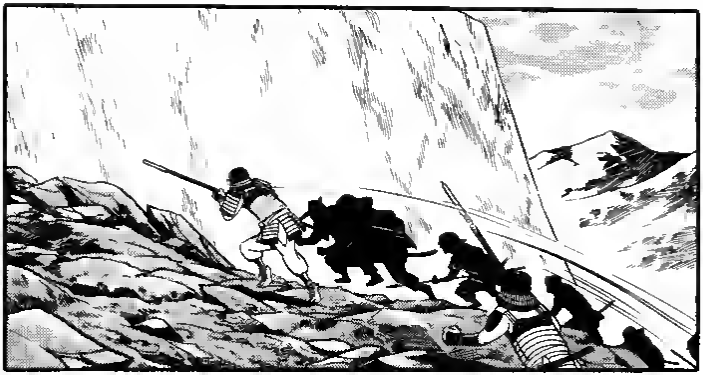
and they fell, one after another.
But the Takeda Army, clinging to the cliff, could not counterattack,
ONWARD! ONWARD! DO NOT CONCEDE!
It was truly a one-sided massacre.
TAKE THIS!
FEEL THE WRATH OF SHIGA CASTLE!
THAT'S THE GENERAL!

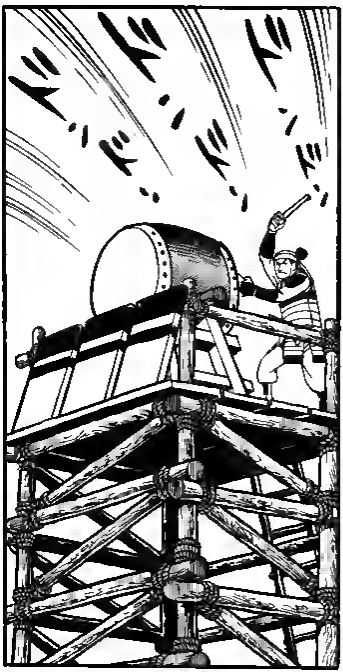

And thus, Yokota Bicchu-no-Kami met his end.
わぁ〜
The battle was over by the Hour of the Dragon (8:00 AM). There were about 160 slain, and 200 injured, while the enemy suffered nothing.

The second attack was carried out two days later, by Oyamada Nobuari's forces.
The plan was for them to aim and fire upon the enemy once they come out of the castle, while Oyamada's forces climb all the way up the cliff.
Harunobu dispatched thirty rifles for this operation.

and dropped stones and fired arrows just like before.
The castle soldiers sprung out as if they were waiting for them.
The Takeda's riflemen fired upon the castle soldiers

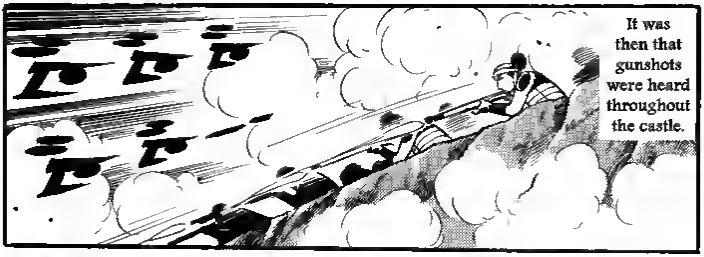
DAMN! THEY HAVE RIFLES! FALL BACK!
NOW! CLIMB WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE!



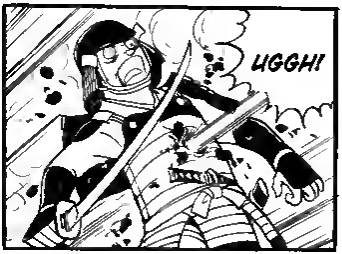


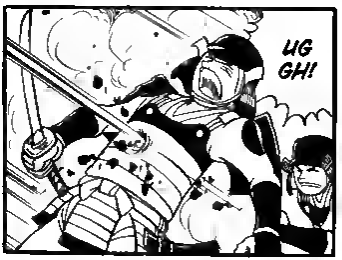
SLAY THE TAKEDA AND AVENGE SHIGA!
DON'T SPARE A SINGLE ONE OF THEM!
Oyamada's forces had not yet all climbed up the cliff. They were lacking in numbers.

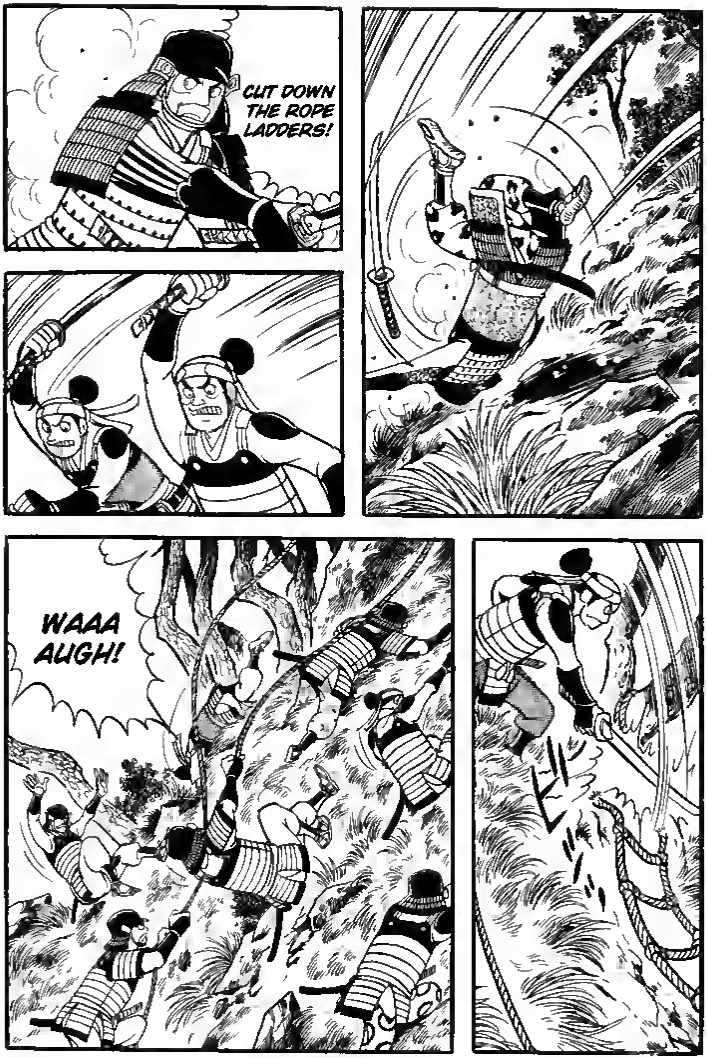
HOLD OUT! HOLD OUT UNTIL OUR ALLIES CAN CLIMB UP!

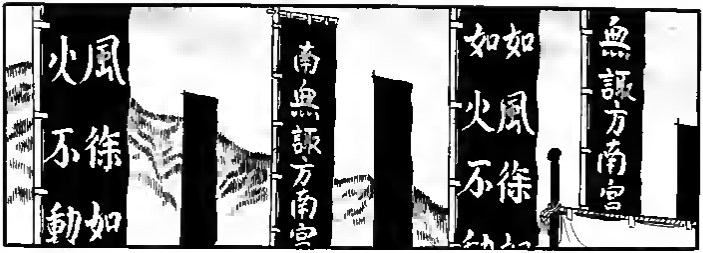

It was then that gunshots were heard throughout the castle.

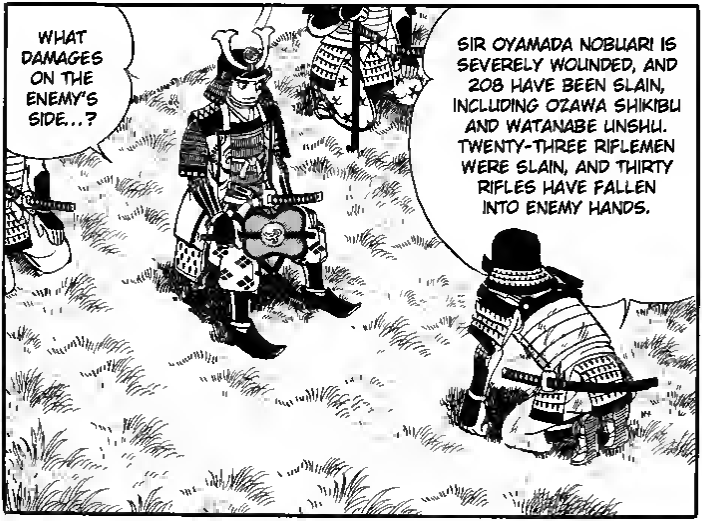
WAA UGH!

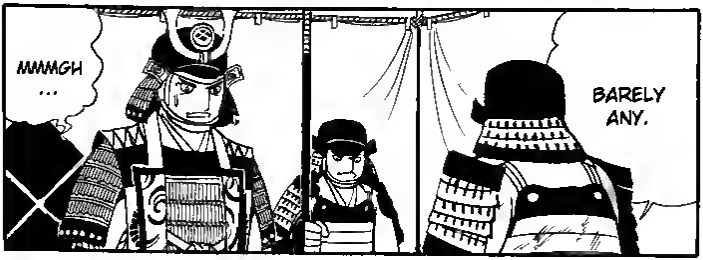

UGGH!

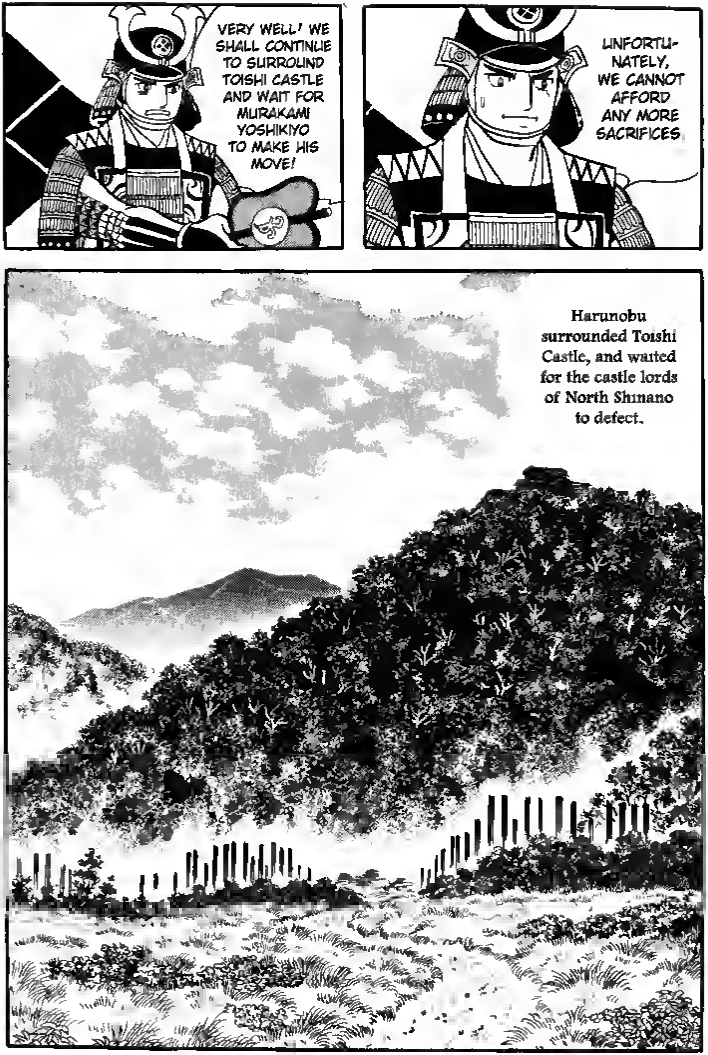

UG GH!


CUT DOWN THE ROPE LADDERS!
WAAA AUGH!

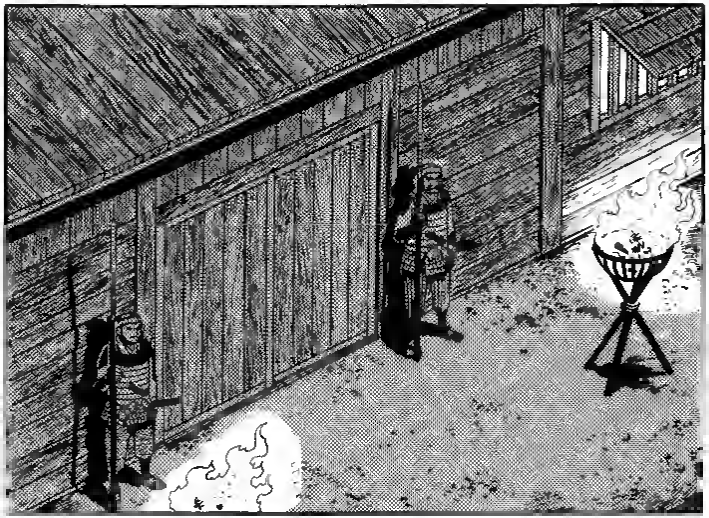

南無誠方南宮
如風徐如火不動

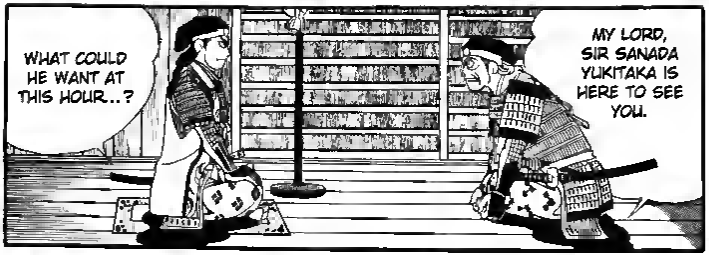

WHAT DAMAGES ON THE ENEMY'S SIDE..?
SIR OYAMADA NOBUARI IS SEVERELY WOUNDED, AND 208 HAVE BEEN SLAIN, INCLUDING OZAWA SHIKIBU AND WATANABE UNSHU. TWENTY-THREE RIFLEMEN WERE SLAIN, AND THIRTY RIFLES HAVE FALLEN INTO ENEMY HANDS.


MMMGH ...
BARELY ANY.


VERY WELL! WE SHALL CONTINUE TO SURROUND TOISHI CASTLE AND WAIT FOR MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO TO MAKE HIS MOVE!
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CANNOT AFFORD ANY MORE SACRIFICES.
Harunobu surrounded Toishi Castle, and waited for the castle lords of North Shinano to defect.

September
2□th




WHAT COULD HE WANT AT THIS HOUR...?
MY LORD, SIR SANADA YUKITAKA IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

OHH, SIR YUKITAKA!
I BRING GRAVE NEWS, MY LORD. THE CLANS OF NORTH SHINANO THAT PROMISED TO DEFECT HAVE HEARD OF OUR STRUGGLE, AND HAVE DECIDED TO REMAIN WITH THE MURAKAMI!
THE MURAKAMI ARMY IS PLANNING TO ATTACK US AT DAWN, TWO THOUSAND STRONG!

ARE YOU SAYING WE SHOULD WITHDRAW?
AT THIS RATE, WE WILL BE ATTACKED BY THE MURAKAMI ARMY FROM BEHIND AND THE CASTLE SOLDIERS FROM IN FRONT
UNDER-STOOD.
YES, MY LORD. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
YES. GOOD WORK.
THEN WE SHALL RETURN TO THE CASTLE.
Sanada Yukitaka vanished into the darkness.

YES, MY LORD. I WILL RELAY YOUR ORDERS IMMEDIATELY.
HAVE THE ENTIRE ARMY RETREAT TO NAGAKUBO CASTLE!

The Kai army hurried to prepare to withdraw.

But Toishi Castle noticed, and sent about a hundred soldiers to assault them, guerrilla-style.

The Kai army withdrew, as if they were swatting flies along the way.

But the Murakami army's pursuers were faster

First they broke through Hara Kaga-no-Kami's forces, who served as the rearguard.

Having once shown their backs to the enemy, they could not set up camp and fight again. The Takeda army was scattered, little by little, by the Murakami army.

WHAT?
MY LORD! GIVE ME YOUR HELMET!
MY LORD, YOU SHOULD TAKE OFF YOUR HELMET SO YOU LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY!
I WILL TAKE YOUR PLACE! IN THE MEANTIME, YOU MUST RUN!
FOR SHAME.

I KNOW.
THE FATE OF THE TAKEDA IS IN YOUR HANDS!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, SIR OBI!
OHH! THAT'S HARUNOBU?
I AM TAKEDA HARUNOBU! OUT OF MY SIGHT, PEASANTS!

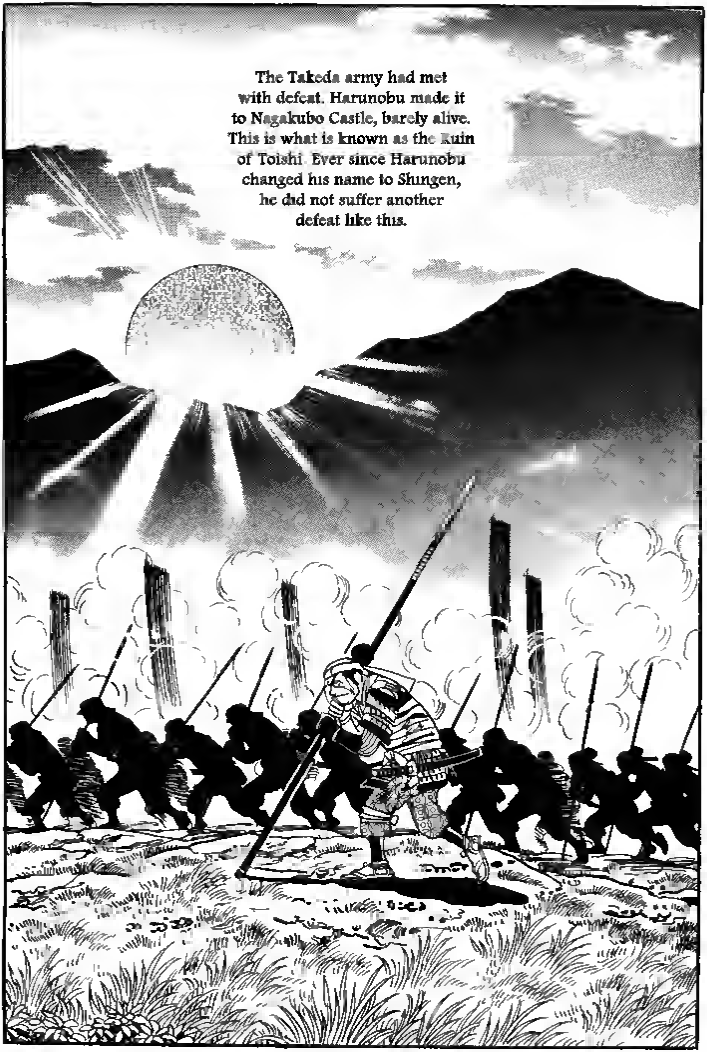
THAT'S HIM! SLAY HIM!
URGH!
WE'VE DONE IT!

I, NIRE WAKASA, VASSAL OF LORD YASHIRO, HAVE TAKEN THE HEAD OF LORD TAKEDA HARUNOBU!

WE WON! WE HAVE WON!

OHH!

OHHH! WE'VE FINALLY SLAIN THE ENEMY COMMANDER!

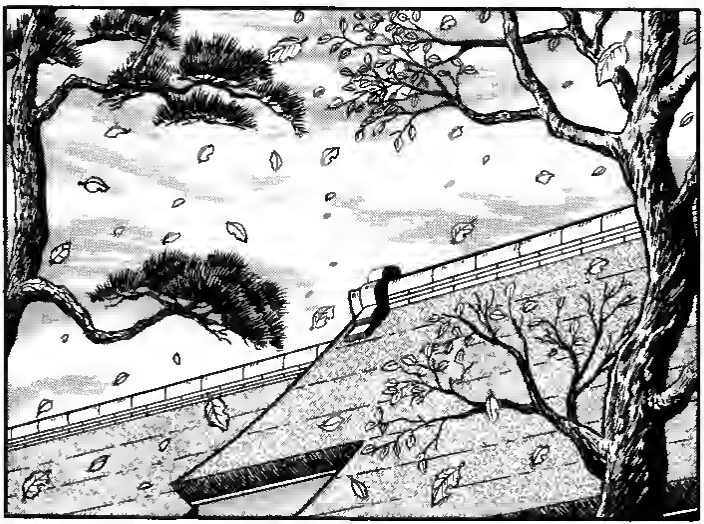

The Takeda army had met with defeat. Harunobu made it to Nagakubo Castle, barely alive. This is what is known as the Ruin of Toishi. Ever since Harunobu changed his name to Shingen, he did not suffer another defeat like this.

TAKEDA SHINGEN

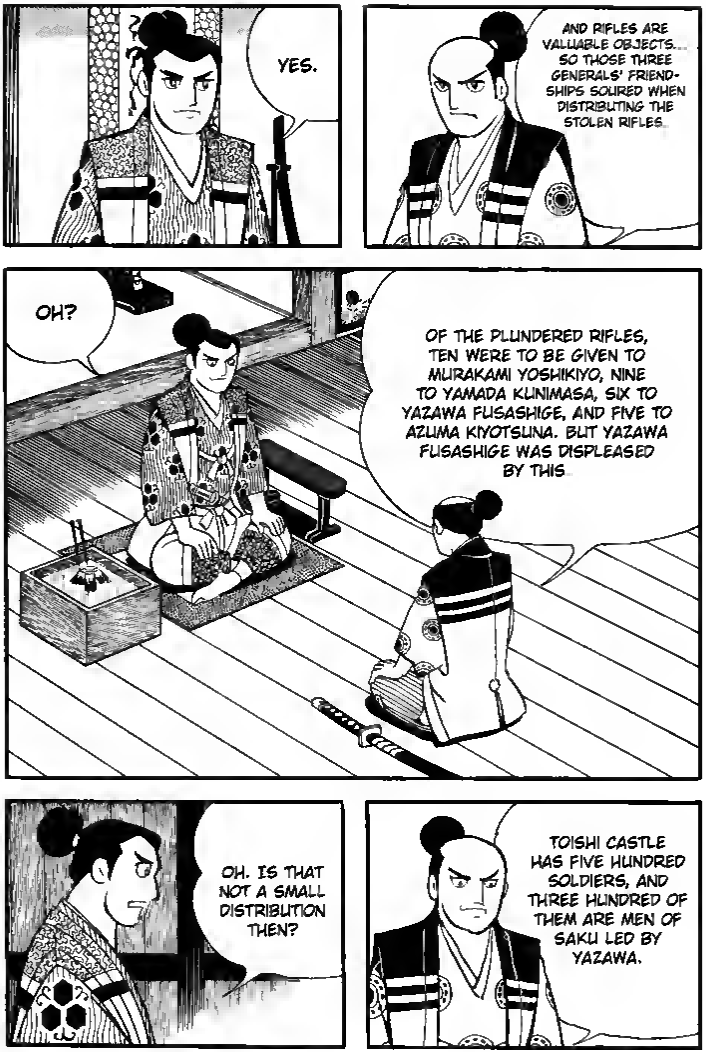
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

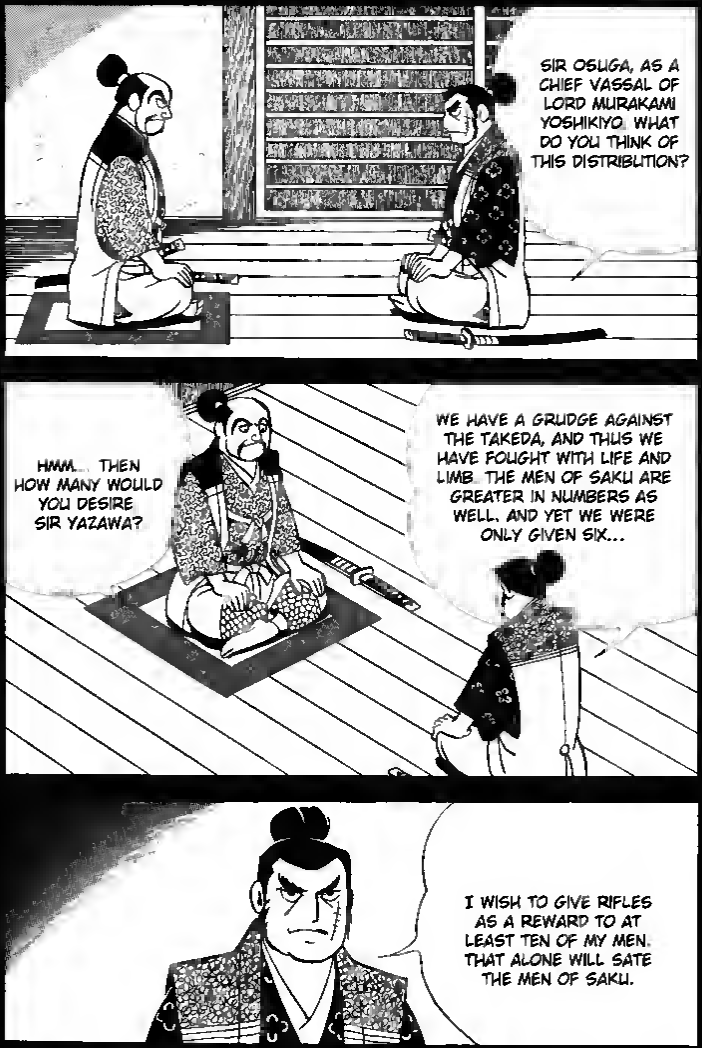
CHAPTER 30

Chapter 31:
Rifles of Doubt

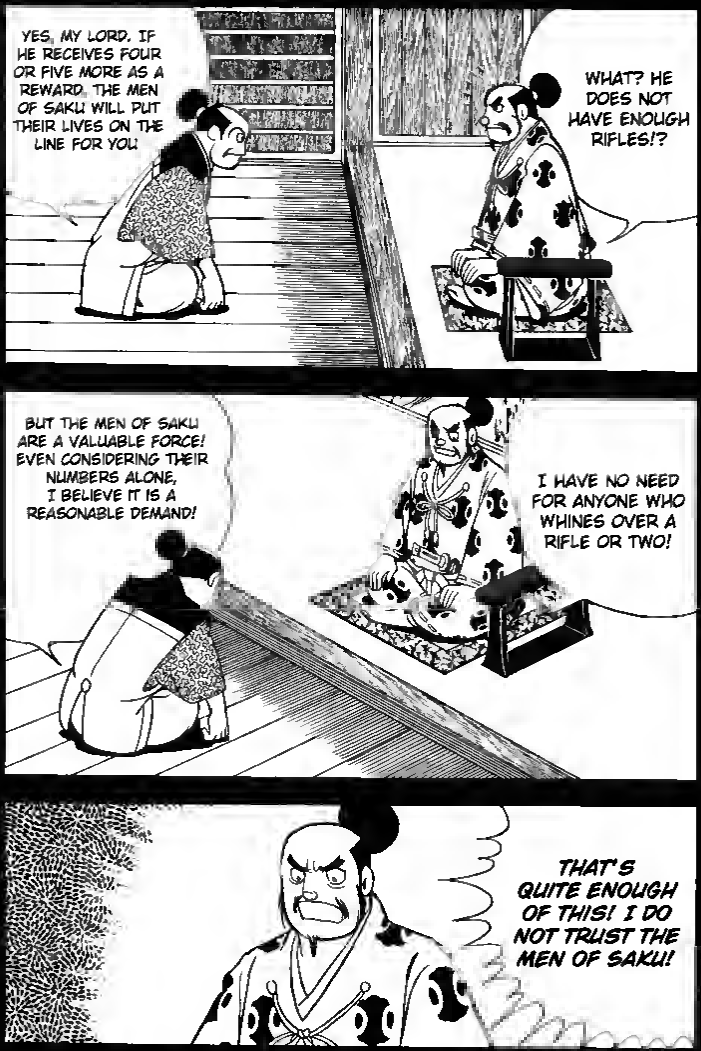


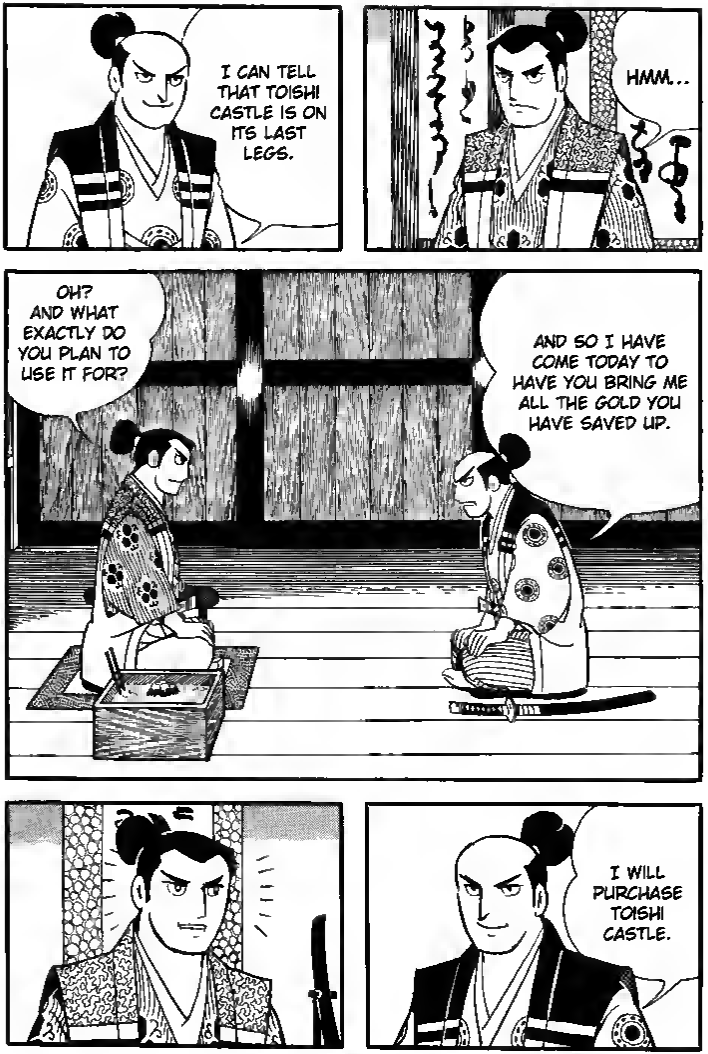
YES, MY LORD. WE HAVE AN INFORMANT IN THE MURAKAMI CLAN, AND HE INFORMED US.
WHAT? YOU SAY THAT YAMADA KUNIMASA, AZUMA KIYOTSUNA, AND YAZAWA FUSASHIGE OF TOISHI CASTLE ARE ON ILL TERMS?
YES, MY LORD.
TELL ME MORE OF THIS, SANADA.
YES.
YOU HAVE LOST THIRTY RIFLES IN YOUR SIEGE OF TOISHI CASTLE, CORRECT, MY LORD?


YES.
AND RIFLES ARE VALUABLE OBJECTS... SO THOSE THREE GENERALS' FRIENDSHIPS SOURED WHEN DISTRIBUTING THE STOLEN RIFLES.
OH?
OF THE PLUNDERED RIFLES, TEN WERE TO BE GIVEN TO MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO, NINE TO YAMADA KUNIMASA, SIX TO YAZAWA FUSASHIGE, AND FIVE TO AZUMA KIYOTSUNA. BUT YAZAWA FUSASHIGE WAS DISPLEASED BY THIS.
OH. IS THAT NOT A SMALL DISTRIBUTION THEN?
TOISHI CASTLE HAS FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS, AND THREE HUNDRED OF THEM ARE MEN OF SAKU LED BY YAZAWA.

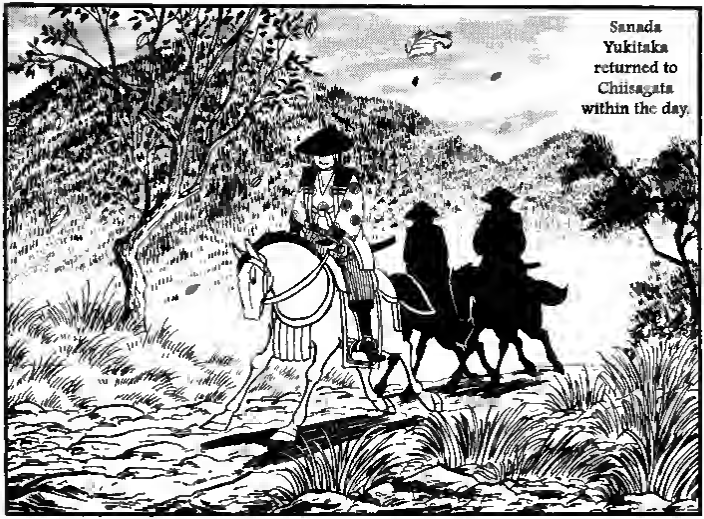

SIR OSUGA, AS A CHIEF VASSAL OF LORD MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS DISTRIBUTION?
HMM... THEN HOW MANY WOULD YOU DESIRE SIR YAZAWA?
WE HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST THE TAKEDA, AND THUS WE HAVE FOUGHT WITH LIFE AND LIMB. THE MEN OF SAKU ARE GREATER IN NUMBERS AS WELL, AND YET WE WERE ONLY GIVEN SIX...
I WISH TO GIVE RIFLES AS A REWARD TO AT LEAST TEN OF MY MEN. THAT ALONE WILL SATE THE MEN OF SAKU.

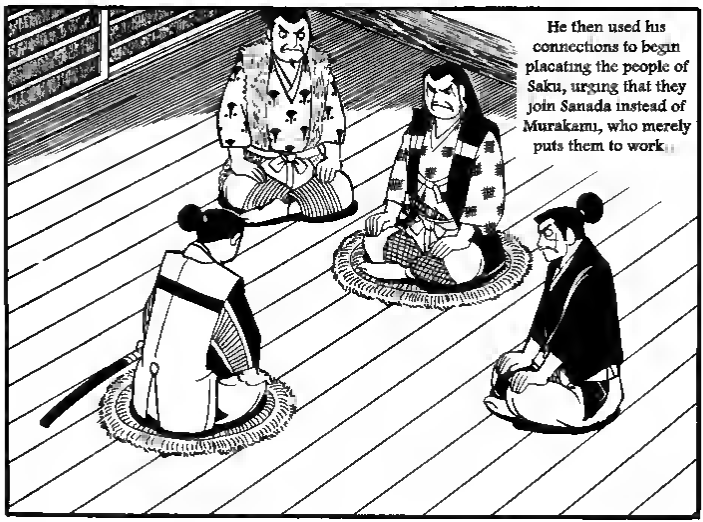
YES.
SO YOU REQUIRE ANOTHER FOUR?
PLEASE DO.
VERY WELL. I SHALL RETURN TO KAZURAO CASTLE AND INFORM OUR LORD.
WHAT? HE IS UNWILLING TO SPARE THE MEN OF SAKU FOUR RIFLES, AFTER ALL THEY'VE DONE?
BUT IT SEEMS THAT MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO SPURNED HIS REQUEST.

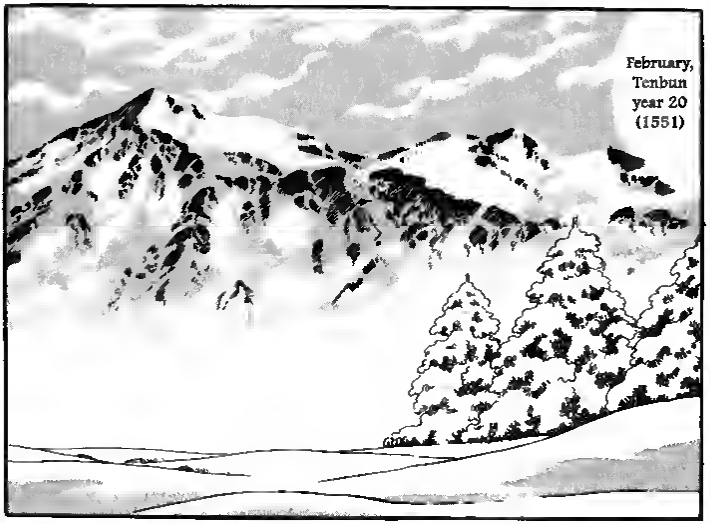

YES, MY LORD. IF HE RECEIVES FOUR OR FIVE MORE AS A REWARD, THE MEN OF SAKU WILL PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR YOU.
WHAT? HE DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH RIFLES!?
BUT THE MEN OF SAKU ARE A VALUABLE FORCE! EVEN CONSIDERING THEIR NUMBERS ALONE, I BELIEVE IT IS A REASONABLE DEMAND!
I HAVE NO NEED FOR ANYONE WHO WHINES OVER A RIFLE OR TWO!
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH OF THIS! I DO NOT TRUST THE MEN OF SAKU!


I CAN TELL THAT TOISHI CASTLE IS ON ITS LAST LEGS.
HMM...
OH? AND WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU PLAN TO USE IT FOR?
AND SO I HAVE COME TODAY TO HAVE YOU BRING ME ALL THE GOLD YOU HAVE SAVED UP.
I WILL PURCHASE TOISHI CASTLE.

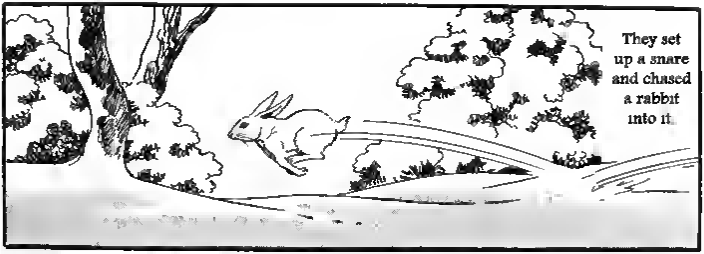
YES, MY LORD. AND ONE MORE THING. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR ABOUT FIVE RIFLES.
TOISHI CASTLE IS THE ONLY THING MAINTAINING THE PEACE OF MURAKAMI'S MAIN STRONGHOLD OF KAZURAO CASTLE. IF TOISHI CASTLE COULD BE BOUGHT WITH GOLD, NOTHING COULD BE CHEAPER. BUY IT AT ONCE.
WHAT WILL YOU USE THEM FOR?
FIVE RIFLES AS GIFTS?
I INTEND TO OFFER THEM AS GIFTS FOR WHEN WE BUY TOISHI CASTLE.
NO, MY LORD. I WILL HAVE IT BOUGHT BY MAY.
VERY WELL, GO AHEAD! BUT NO NEED TO RUSH!

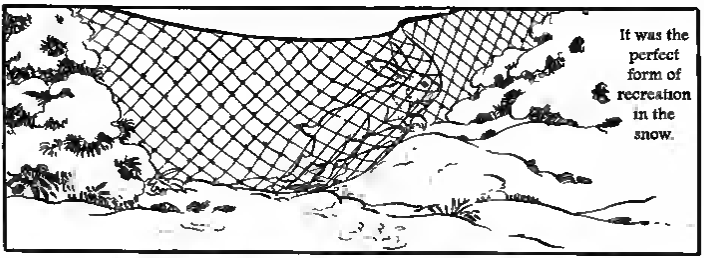

Sanada Yukitaka returned to Chiisagata within the day.


He then used his connections to begin placating the people of Saku, urging that they join Sanada instead of Murakami, who merely puts them to work.


February,
Tenbun
year 20
(1551)

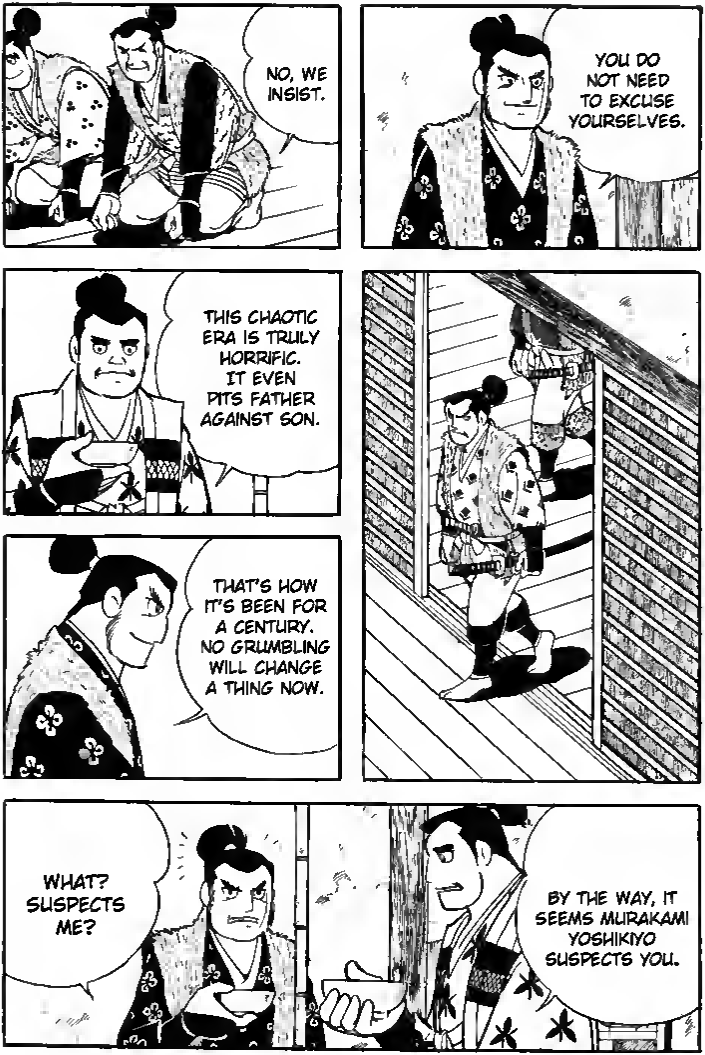
Yazawa
Fusashige
had gone
rabbit-
hunting.

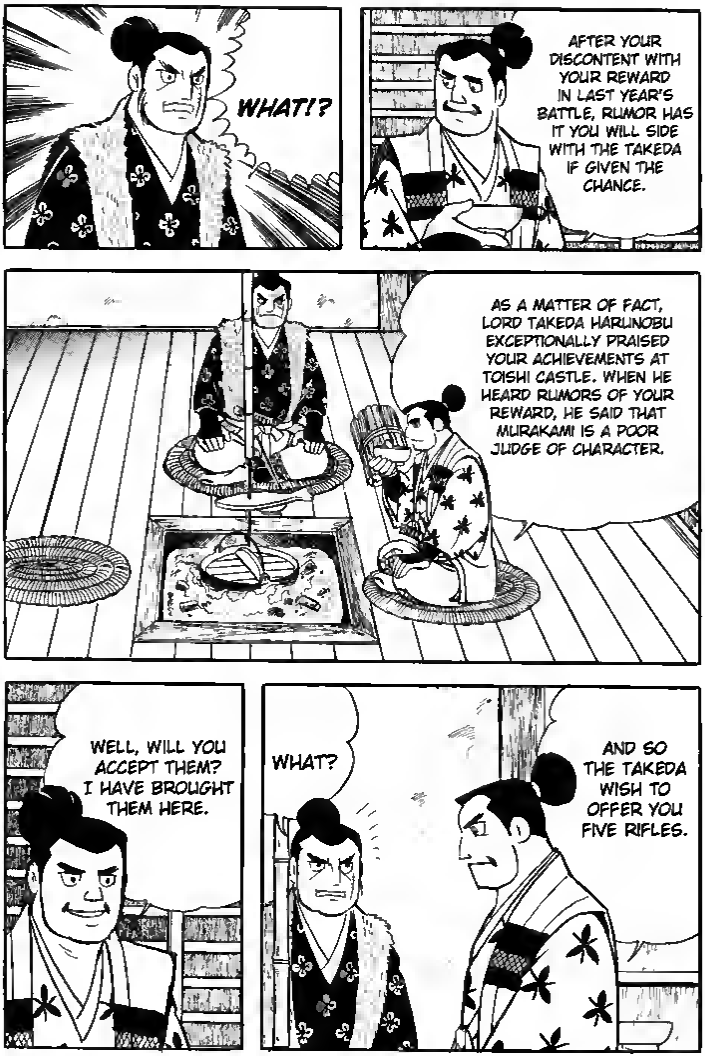

They set up a snare and chased a rabbit into it.


It was the perfect form of recreation in the snow.

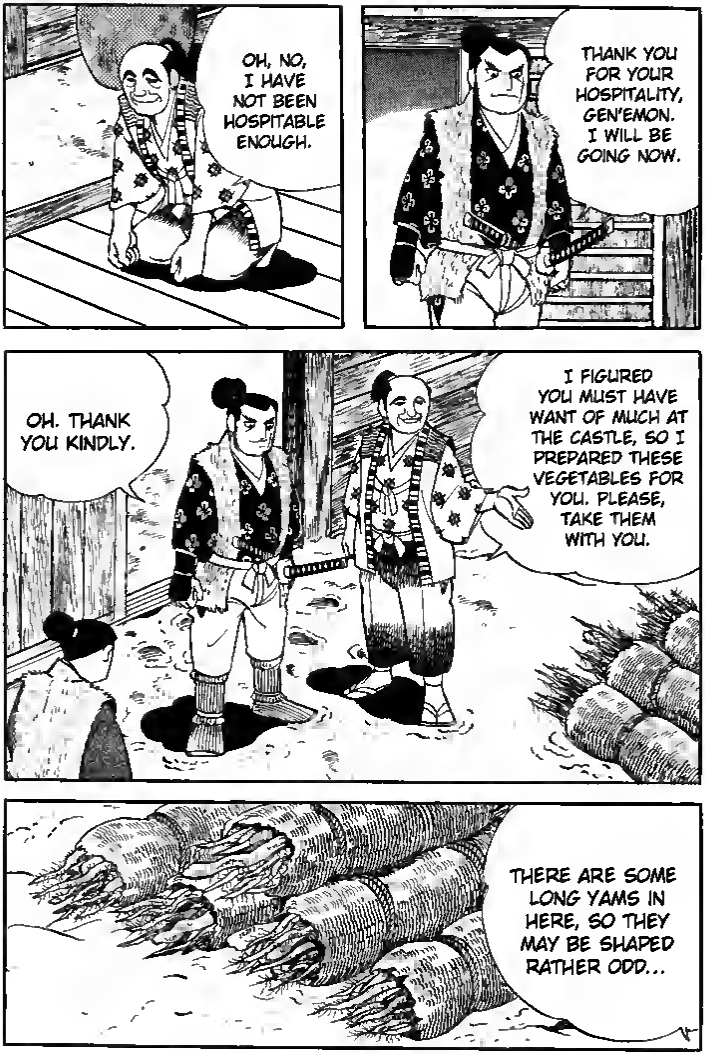
They then made the rabbit into soup at a local village headman's house, and ate it

OH, IF IT ISN'T MOCHIZUKI!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
I HEARD YOU WERE ENJOYING YOURSELF OUT HERE.
YOU SAID IT... HERE, PLEASE HAVE A DRINK.
DESPITE BEING RELATIVES, WE ARE ON OPPOSITE SIDES, SO WE CAN ONLY MEET AT SUCH TIMES AS THESE.
SIR YAZAWA, WE WILL BE COOKING IN THE OTHER ROOM WHILE YOU SPEAK WITH YOUR RELATIVE SEPARATED BY WAR.

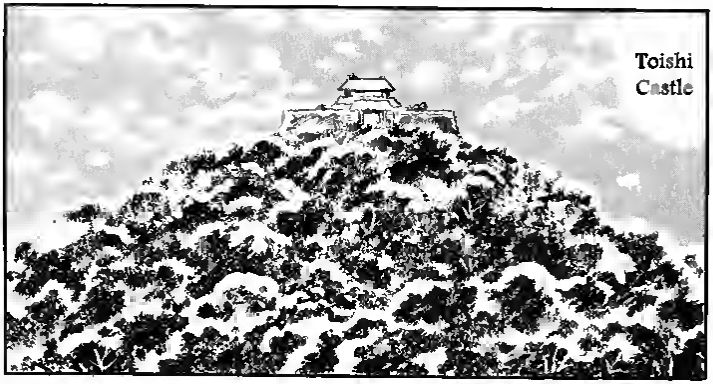

NO, WE INSIST.
YOU DO NOT NEED TO EXCUSE YOURSELVES.
THIS CHAOTIC ERA IS TRULY HORRIFIC. IT EVEN PITS FATHER AGAINST SON.
THAT'S HOW IT'S BEEN FOR A CENTURY. NO GRUMBLING WILL CHANGE A THING NOW.
WHAT? SUSPECTS ME?
BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO SUSPECTS YOU.


WHAT!?
AFTER YOUR DISCONTENT WITH YOUR REWARD IN LAST YEAR'S BATTLE, RUMOR HAS IT YOU WILL SIDE WITH THE TAKEDA IF GIVEN THE CHANCE.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, LORD TAKEDA HARUNOBU EXCEPTIONALLY PRAISED YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AT TOISHI CASTLE. WHEN HE HEARD RUMORS OF YOUR REWARD, HE SAID THAT MURAKAMI IS A POOR JUDGE OF CHARACTER.
WELL, WILL YOU ACCEPT THEM? I HAVE BROUGHT THEM HERE.
WHAT?
AND SO THE TAKEDA WISH TO OFFER YOU FIVE RIFLES.

OH, NO. I AM JUST MAKING THIS A GRACIOUS OFFERING
DID YOU COME HERE WITH THE INTENTION OF TEMPTING ME INTO DEFECTING TO THE TAKEDA?
BUT WITHOUT A REWARD, YOUR MEN OF SAKU WILL SURELY BE DISPLEASED.
BUT I WILL OWE HIM IF I ACCEPT!
IS THAT SO?
THAT IS OUR PROBLEM. IT IS NONE OF TAKEDA'S CONCERN!


OH, NO, I HAVE NOT BEEN HOSPITABLE ENOUGH.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY, GEN'EMON. I WILL BE GOING NOW.
OH. THANK YOU KINDLY.
I FIGURED YOU MUST HAVE WANT OF MUCH AT THE CASTLE, SO I PREPARED THESE VEGETABLES FOR YOU. PLEASE, TAKE THEM WITH YOU.
THERE ARE SOME LONG YAMS IN HERE, SO THEY MAY BE SHAPED RATHER ODD...

YES, SIR.
YOU, CARRY THESE BACK TO THE CASTLE.
.....


Toishi
Castle

REPORTING IN.

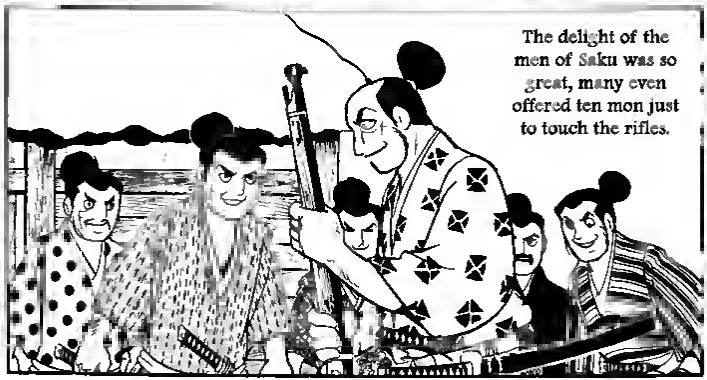
WHAT !?

WE HAVE DISCOVERED FIVE RIFLES AMONG THE LONG YAMS.

ONLY THREE MEN OF SAKU, SIR.
DID ANYONE SEE THEM?
YES, SIR.
GOOD. SILENCE THEM WELL.
AND IF I GIVE THEM AS REWARDS, LORD MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO WILL SUSPECT ME, AND ASK WHERE I OBTAINED SUCH VALUABLE ITEMS.
THIS MAY HAVE TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE. IF THE MEN OF SAKU LEARN OF THIS, THEY WILL DEMAND THEM AS REWARDS...

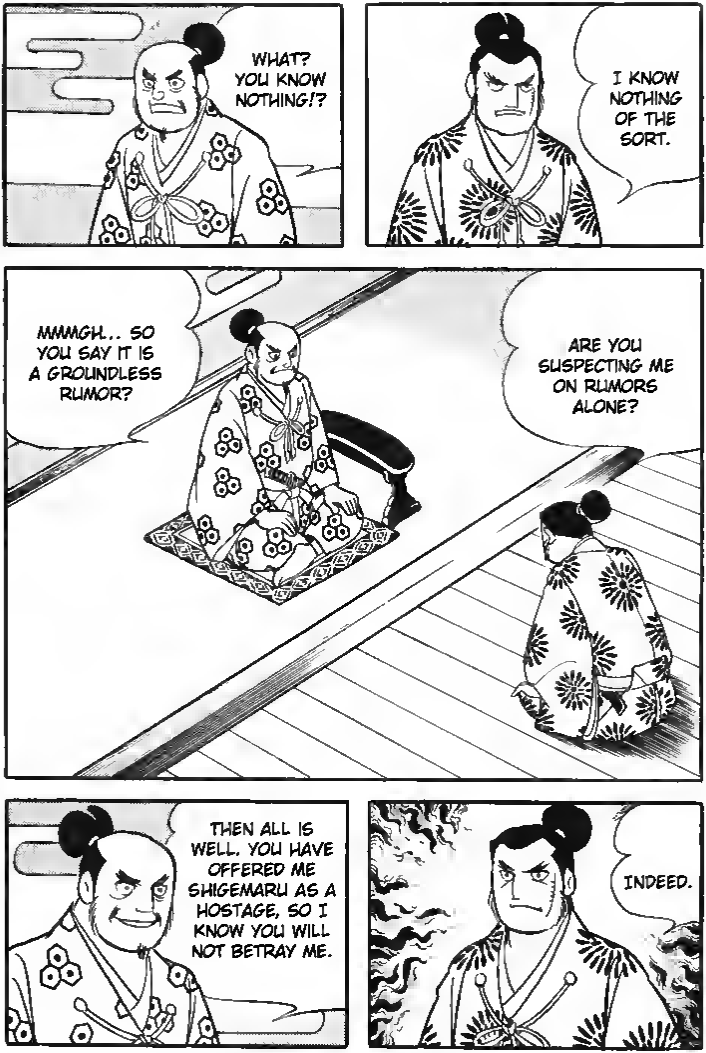
But word of the rifles spread among the men of Saku.
One of the men of Saku saw the village headman wrapping the rifles along with the yams.
YES, SIR.
GATHER UP ELEVEN OF THE CHIEF MEN OF SAKU. IT SEEMS WE CAN HIDE THIS NO LONGER.

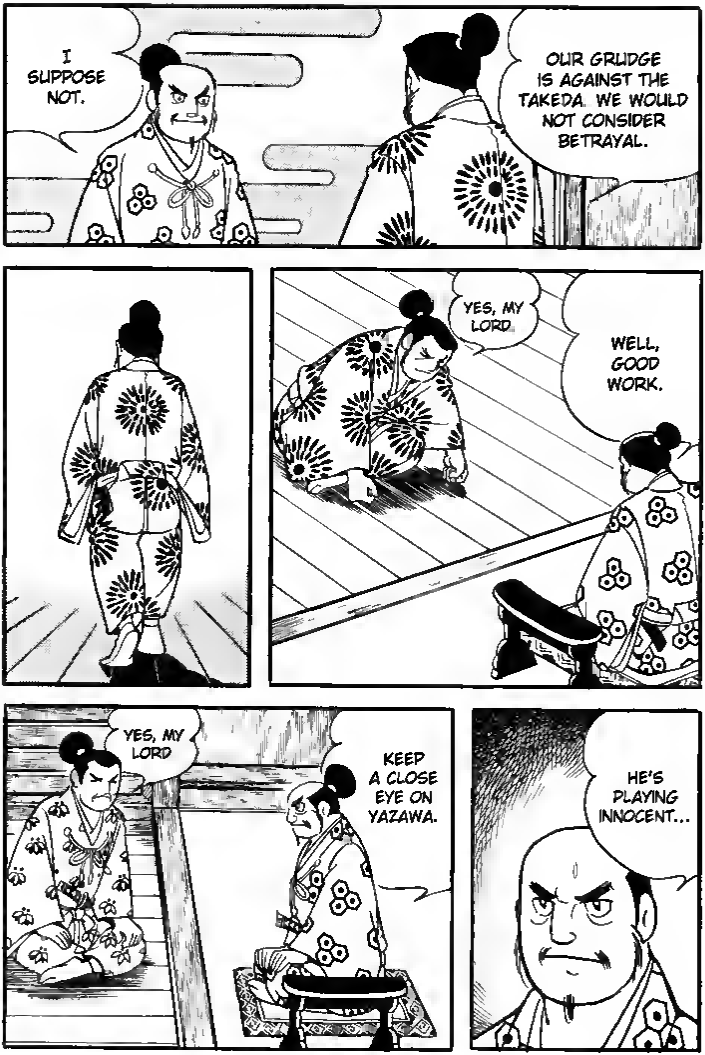
And so, these eleven guns were given to the eleven chief men of Saku as rewards.


The delight of the men of Saku was so great, many even offered ten mon just to touch the rifles.

Kazurao
Castle

YAZAWA FUSASHIGE, I HAVE SUMMONED YOU FOR ONE REASON ALONE. IT SEEMS YOU HAVE OBTAINED FIVE RIFLES FROM OUT OF NOWHERE.


WHAT? YOU KNOW NOTHING!?
I KNOW NOTHING OF THE SORT.
MMMGH.. SO YOU SAY IT IS A GROUNDLESS RUMOR?
ARE YOU SUSPECTING ME ON RUMORS ALONE?
THEN ALL IS WELL. YOU HAVE OFFERED ME SHIGEMARU AS A HOSTAGE, SO I KNOW YOU WILL NOT BETRAY ME.
INDEED.

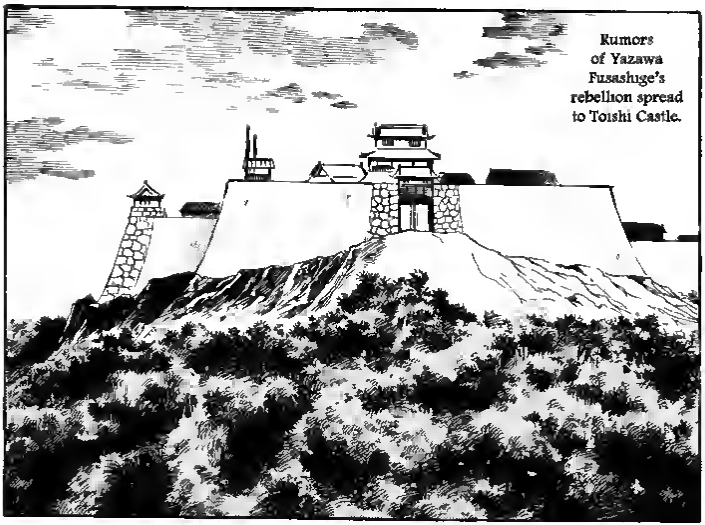

I SUPPOSE NOT.
OUR GRUDGE IS AGAINST THE TAKEDA. WE WOULD NOT CONSIDER BETRAYAL.
YES, MY LORD.
WELL, GOOD WORK.
YES, MY LORD
KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON YAZAWA.
HE'S PLAYING INNOCENT...

TAKEDA SHINGEN

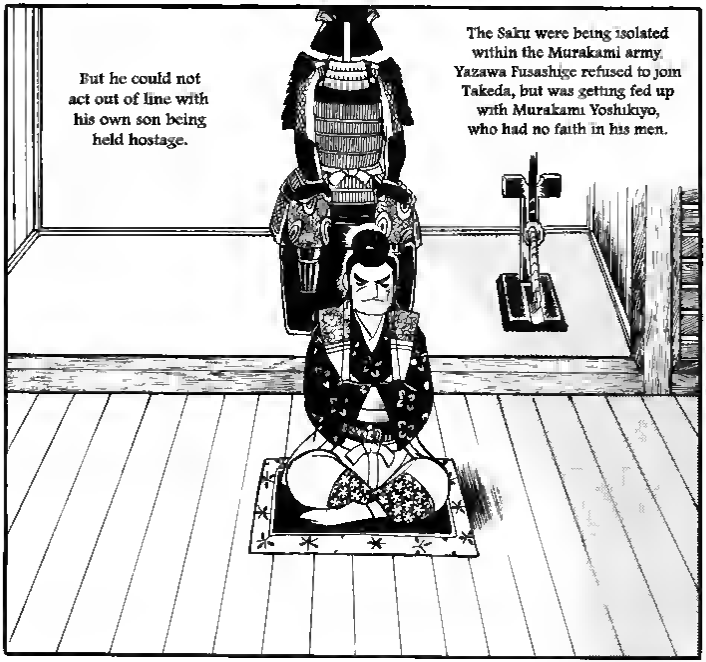
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 31

Chapter 32: Toishi Castle Falls



The Yamada and Azuma soldiers and the men of Saku began glaring at each other inside the castle.

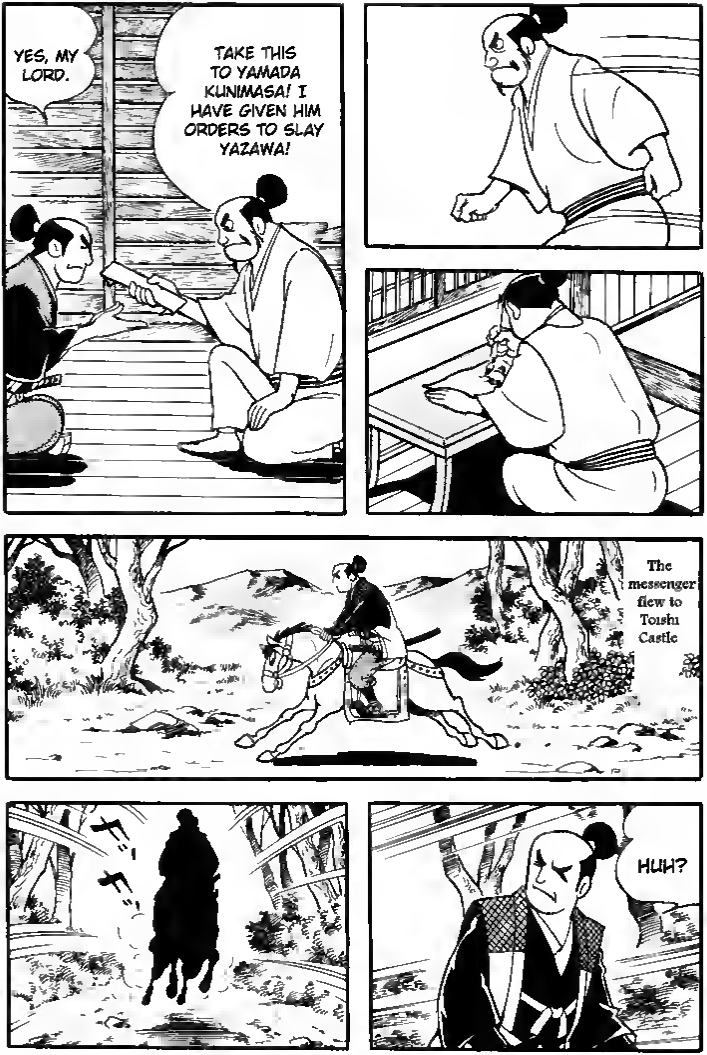

But he could not act out of line with his own son being held hostage.
The Saku were being isolated within the Murakami army. Yazawa Fusashige refused to join Takeda, but was getting fed up with Murakami Yoshikiyo, who had no faith in his men.

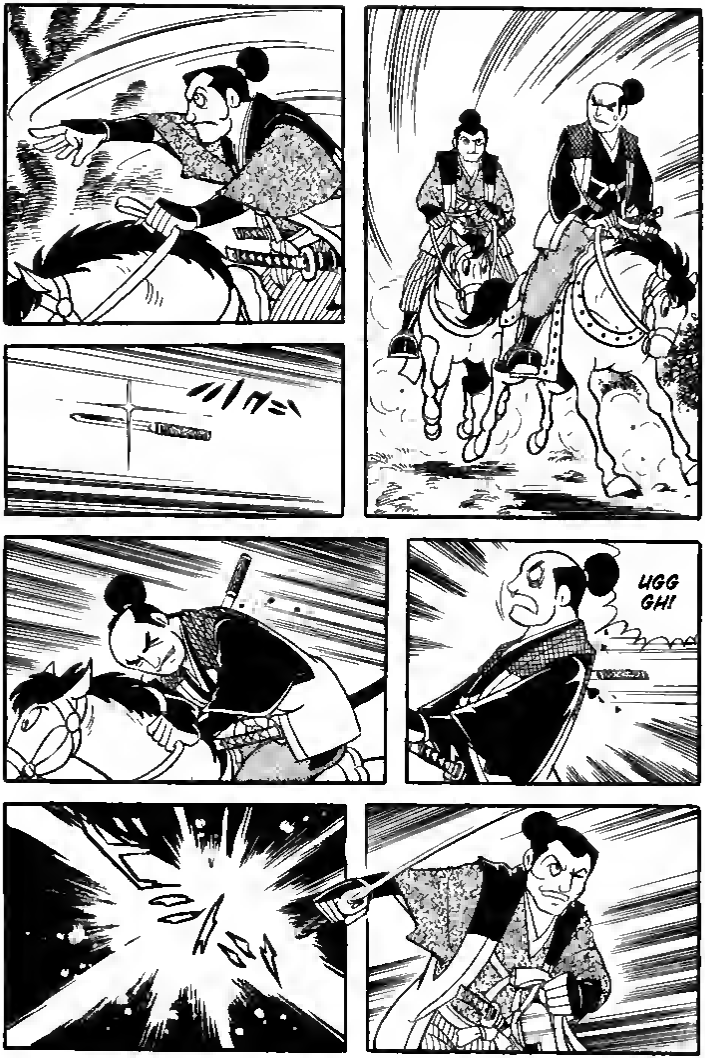
LISTEN. THE SAKU ARE BECOMING COMPLETELY ISOLATED. NOW IS THE TIME TO PERSUADE THEM. NOT JUST WITH WORDS, BUT WITH GOLD.
YES, SIR.
Sanada Yukitaka's castle, Matsuo Castle
I WILL DO SO PRUDENTLY.
THEN SPREAD MORE RUMORS OF YAZAWA'S TREASON.

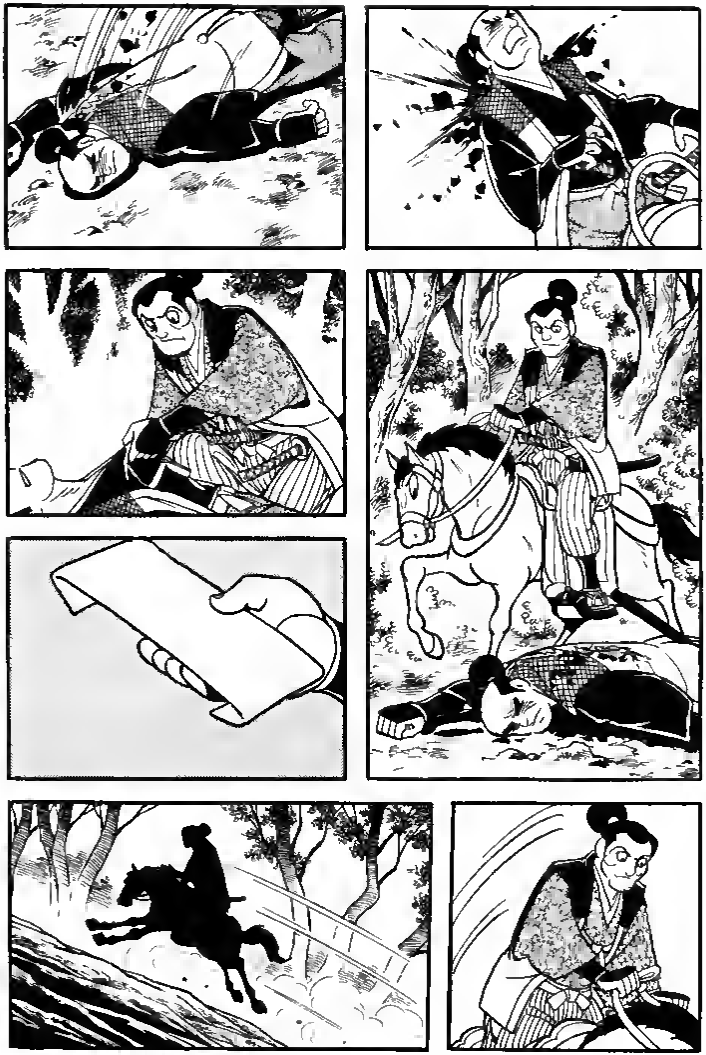
IF THAT GOES WELL...
AND I WILL ORDER ONE OF MY MEN INSIDE KAZURAO CASTLE TO RESCUE YAZAWA FUSASHIGE'S HOSTAGE SON SHIGEMARU.
YES, SIR. I WILL GIVE MY UTMOST EFFORT.
AND YAZAWA DECIDES TO COMMIT TREASON, TOISHI CASTLE WILL FALL INTO YAZAWA'S HANDS, SINCE THE SAKU OUTNUMBER THE REST.
HAVING BEEN BACKED INTO A CORNER THIS FAR, YAZAWA COULD NOT REMAIN ANY LONGER IN TOISHI CASTLE.

Not long after that...
took Shigemaru from Kazurao Castle
One of Sanada's men

NO, MY LORD. IT APPEARS HE HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED.
WHAT? THERE IS NO SIGN OF SHIGE-MARU?
MMGH .. SO THE RUMORS OF HIS BETRAYAL WERE TRUE! THIS IS HIGHLY UNACCEPTABLE!


YES, MY LORD.
TAKE THIS TO YAMADA KUNIMASA! I HAVE GIVEN HIM ORDERS TO SLAY YAZAWA!
The messenger flew to Toishi Castle
HUH?


UGG
GHI



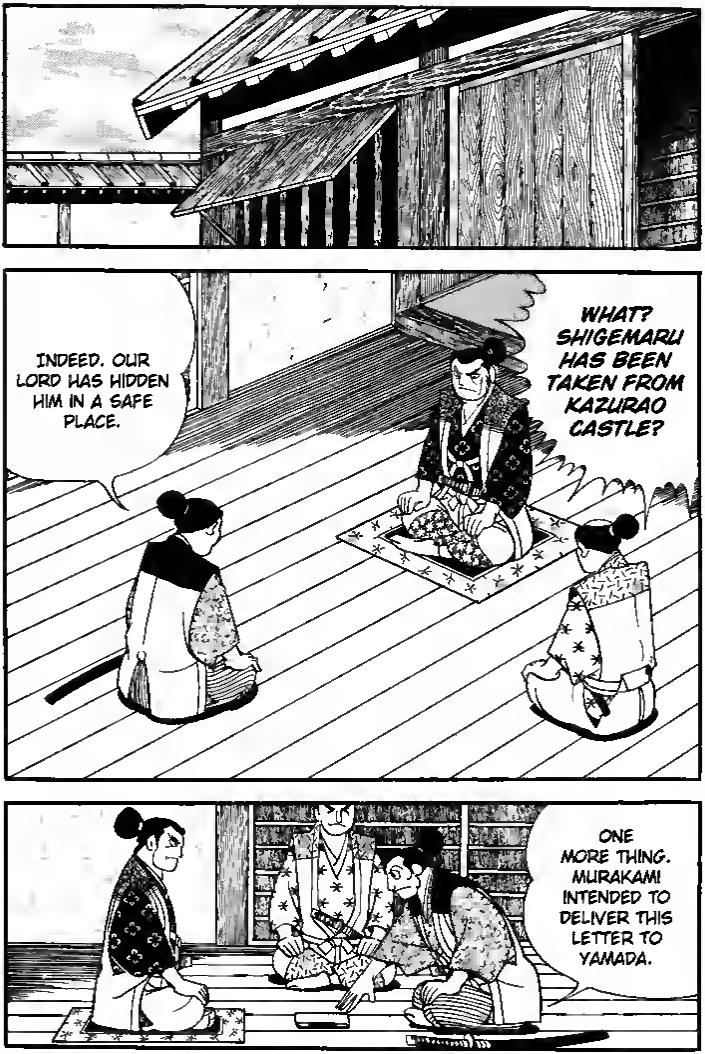
HUH?

OPEN THE GATES! OPEN THE GATES! I COME WITH A MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER IN KAZURAO CASTLE!

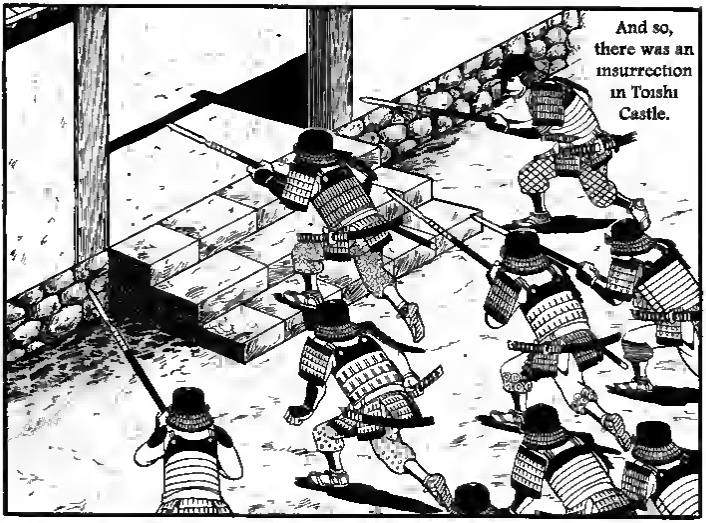
IT'S THE MASTER'S MESSENGER! OPEN THE GATES!

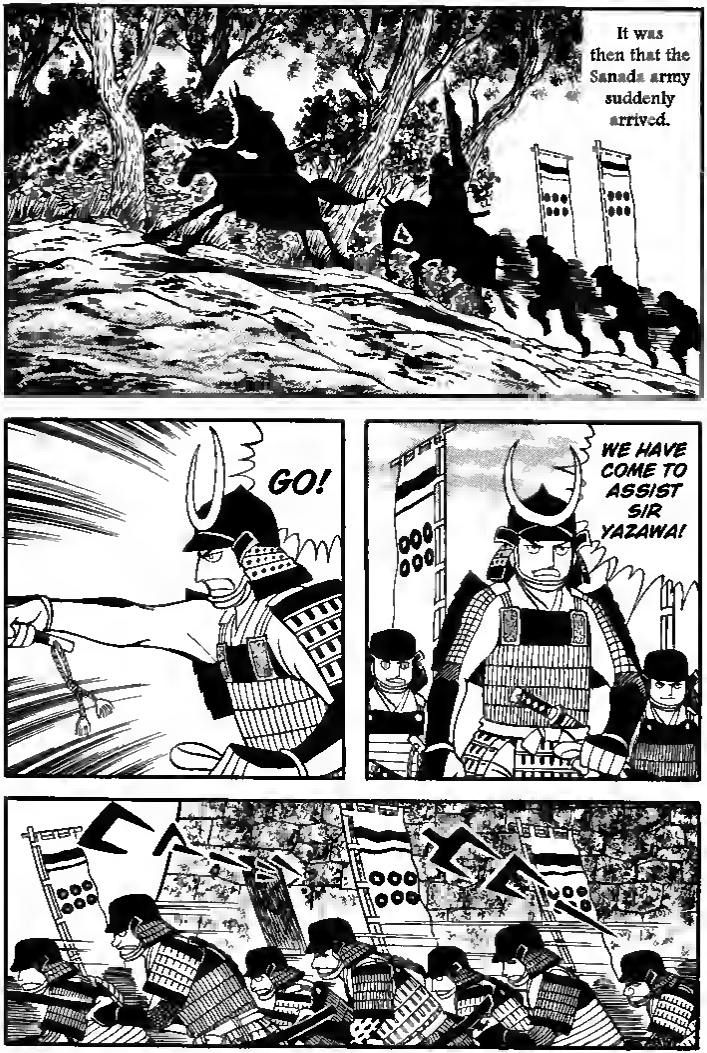
THE MASTER WISHES FOR ME TO GIVE THIS LETTER TO SIR YAZAWA.

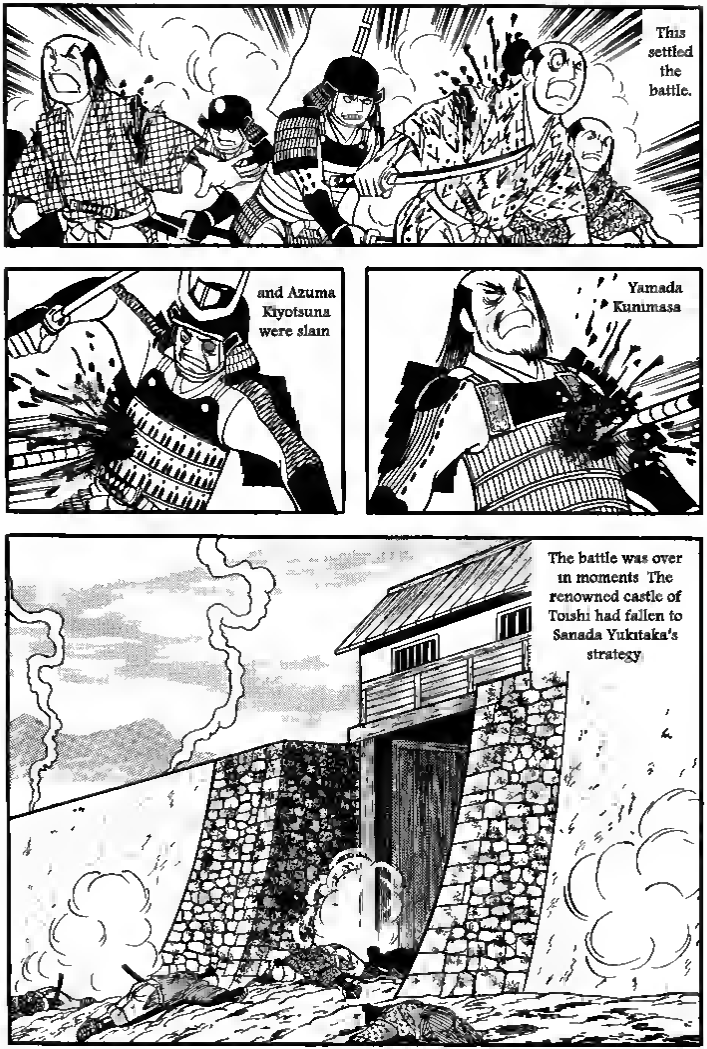
ギィ

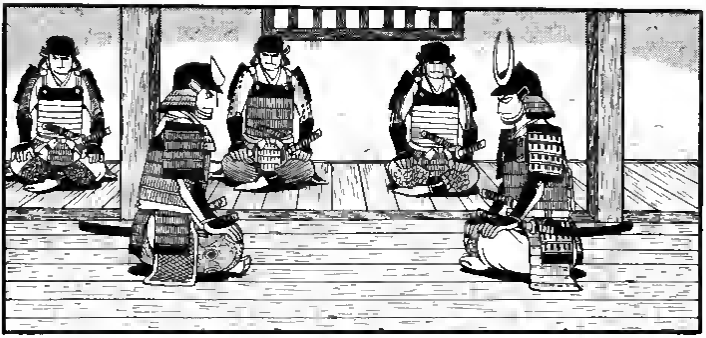

WHAT? SHIGEMARU HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM KAZURAO CASTLE?
INDEED. OUR LORD HAS HIDDEN HIM IN A SAFE PLACE.
ONE MORE THING. MURAKAMI INTENDED TO DELIVER THIS LETTER TO YAMADA.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?
THESE ARE ORDERS TO KILL ME!
YES.
I BELIEVE NOW IS THE TIME TO RESOLVE YOURSELF.
YES, SIR.
RIGHT THEN, SLAY YAMADA AND AZUMA!


And so, there was an insurrection in Toishi Castle.


It was then that the Sanada army suddenly arrived.
GO!
WE HAVE COME TO ASSIST SIR YAZAWA!

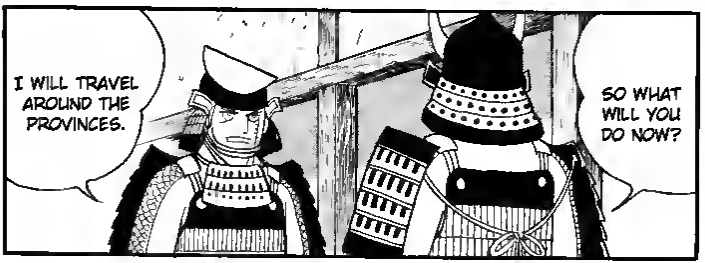

This settled the battle.
and Azuma Kiyotsuna were slain
Yamada Kunimasa
The battle was over in moments The renowned castle of Toishi had fallen to Sanada Yukitaka's strategy



AND SINCE WE BELIEVE TAKEDA TO BE THE ONE WHO DESTROYED SAKU, THAT CANNOT BE.

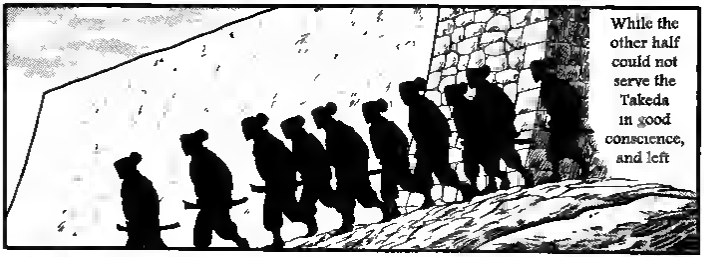
I WOULD BE MORE THAN HONORED. BUT SERVING THE SANADA WOULD MEAN ALLYING WITH THE TAKEDA.

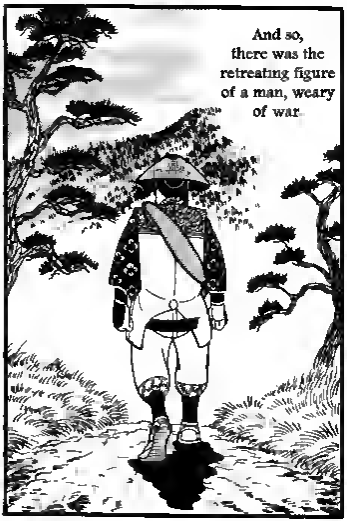
WELL, SIR YAZAWA? WILL YOU SERVE ME?


I WILL TRAVEL AROUND THE PROVINCES.
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

OHH, THAT I CAN GLADLY DO!
WILL YOU PLEASE WATCH AFTER MY FAMILY?
BUT I HAVE ONE THING TO ASK OF YOU.
WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?
UNDERSTOOD. THOSE WHO WILL JOIN US MAY REMAIN IN THIS CASTLE, AND THOSE WHO WILL LEAVE WILL BE GIVEN SUFFICIENT MONEY.
I ALSO WISH FOR YOU TO RESPECT THE WILL OF THE OTHERS.

Half of the Saku decided to remain in Toishi Castle...


While the other half could not serve the Takeda in good conscience, and left


And so, there was the retreating figure of a man, weary of war.

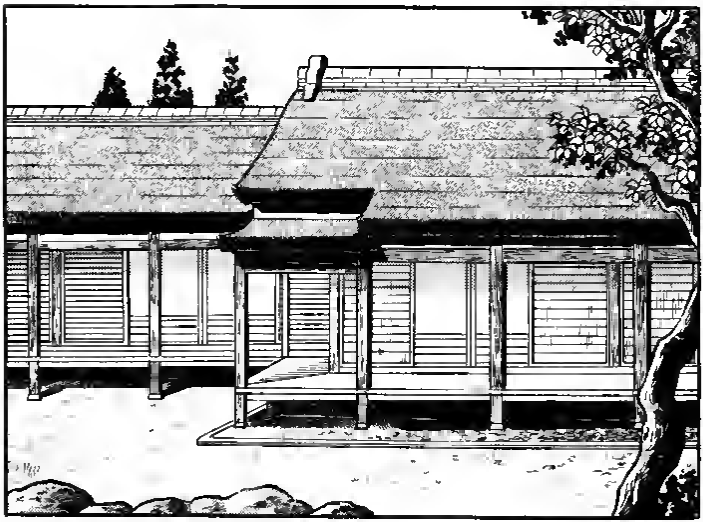
As he looked upon the castle, a single tear gleamed in his eye.
I WILL NEVER BE LIVING HERE AGAIN.

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

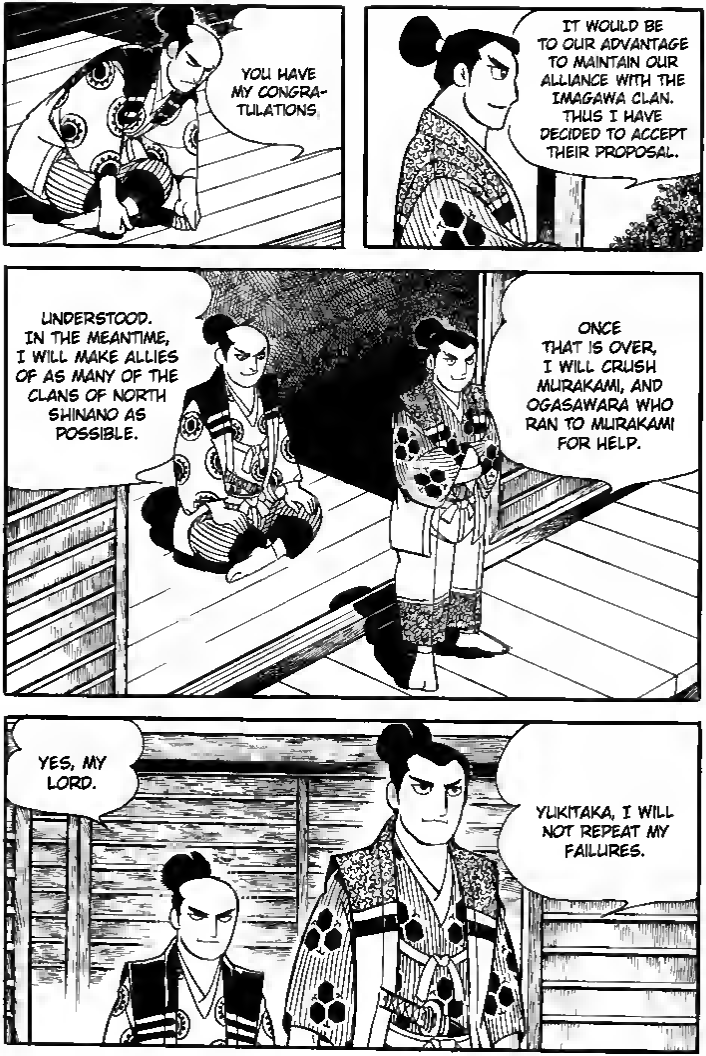
CHAPTER 32

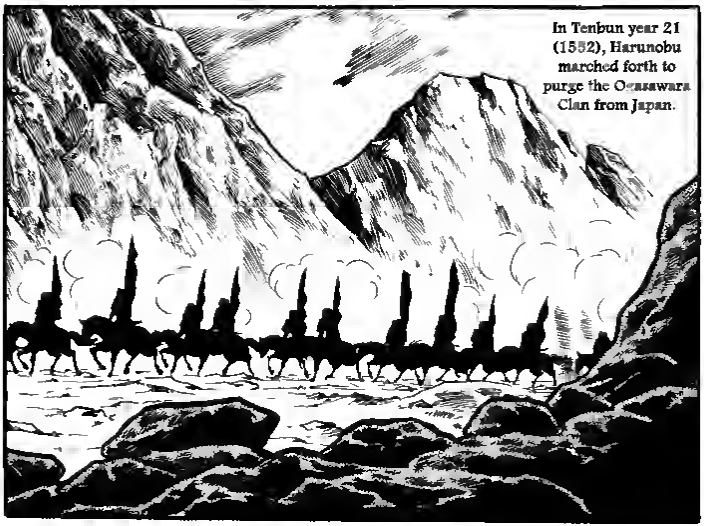
Chapter 33: Genius and Prodigy

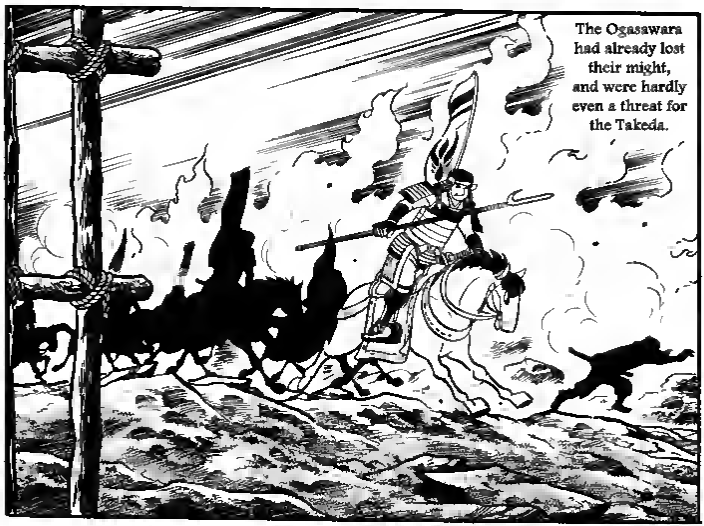


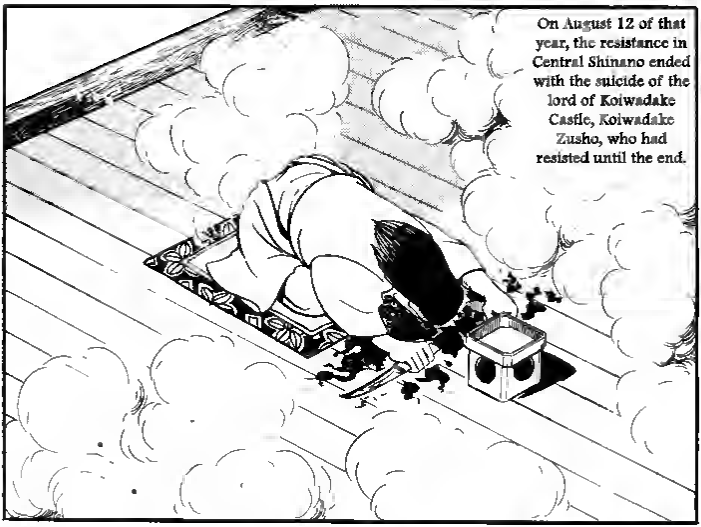
YES, MY LORD.
WELL DONE, SIR YUKITAKA.
YES, MY LORD.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, WE HAVE ESSENTIALLY GAINED 35 RIFLES WITH TOISHI CASTLE.
AND WITH TOISHI CASTLE IN MY HANDS, THE REST WILL BE EASY.

YES, MY LORD.
NOW, SIR YUKITAKA, YOU CONVINCE THE CLANS OF NORTH SHINANO TO JOIN US. DO NOT SPARE ANY EXPENSE.
PROPOSAL FROM IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO .. WITH WHO, MY LORD?
I WILL ARRANGE THE PROPOSAL FROM IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO, THEN CREATE A STRAIGHT PATH LEADING RIGHT THROUGH NORTH SHINANO BEFORE ASSAULTING MURAKAMI.
THE IMAGAWA CLAN WISHES TO HAVE MY ELDEST SON TARO YOSHINOBU BETROTHED TO THE IMAGAWA CLAN'S DAUGHTER TSUNE.

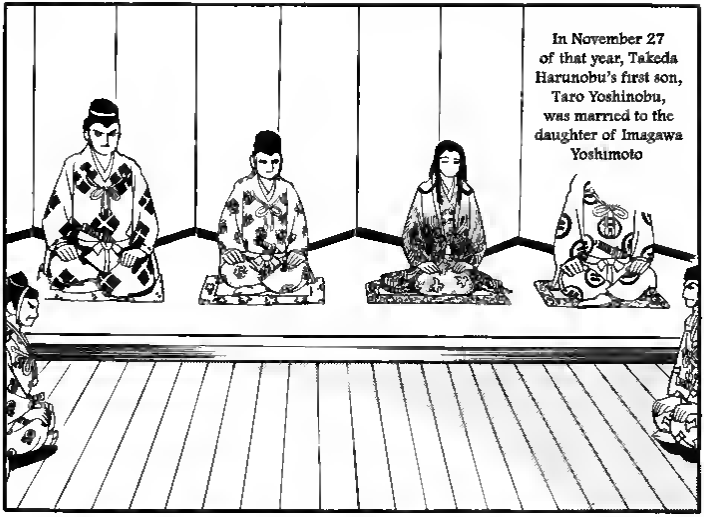

YOU HAVE MY CONGRATULATIONS.
IT WOULD BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO MAINTAIN OUR ALLIANCE WITH THE IMAGAWA CLAN. THUS I HAVE DECIDED TO ACCEPT THEIR PROPOSAL.
UNDERSTOOD. IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL MAKE ALLIES OF AS MANY OF THE CLANS OF NORTH SHINANO AS POSSIBLE.
ONCE THAT IS OVER, I WILL CRUSH MURAKAMI, AND OGASAWARA WHO RAN TO MURAKAMI FOR HELP.
YES, MY LORD.
YUKITAKA, I WILL NOT REPEAT MY FAILURES.

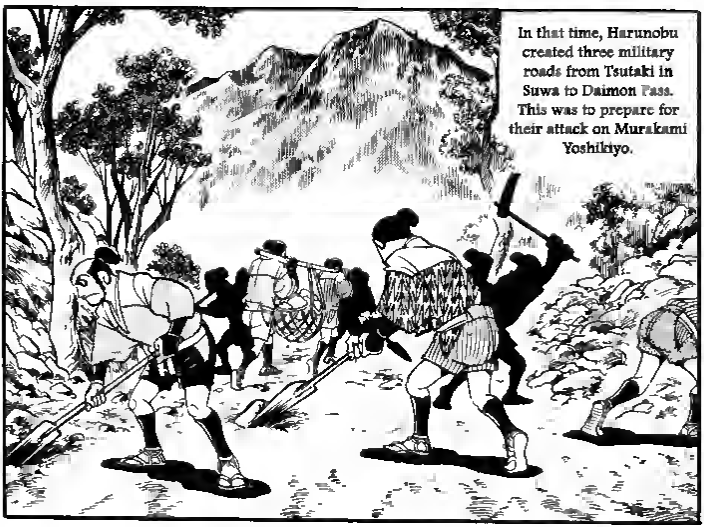

In Tenbun year 21 (1552), Harunobu marched forth to purge the Ogasawara Clan from Japan.


The Ogasawara had already lost their might, and were hardly even a threat for the Takeda.

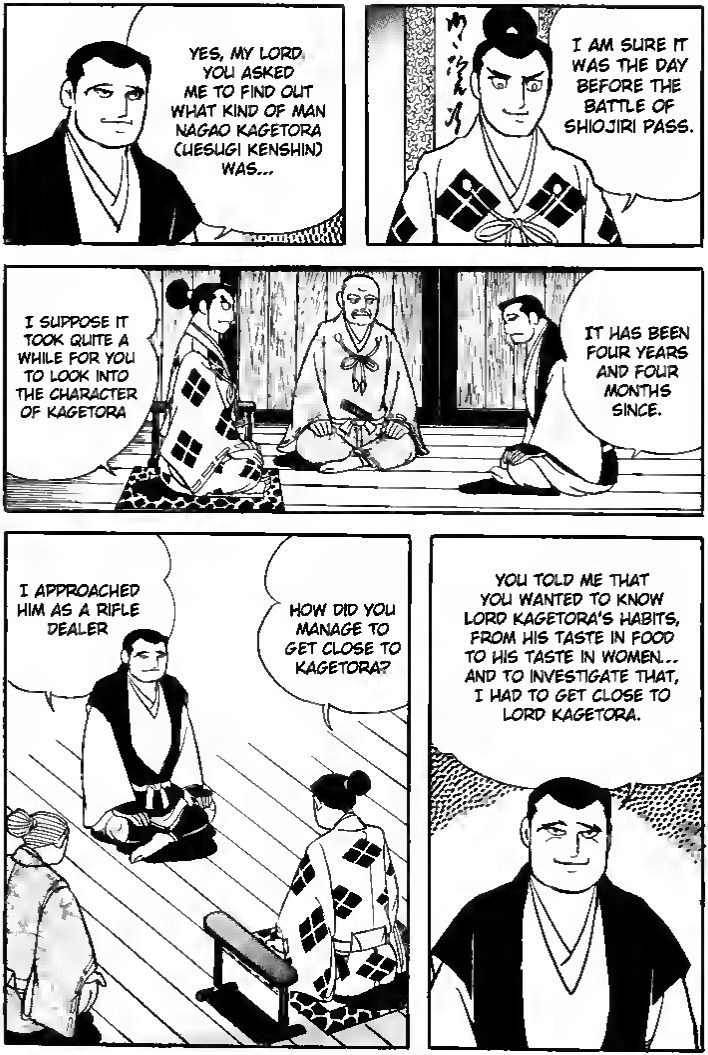

On August 12 of that year, the resistance in Central Shinano ended with the suicide of the lord of Koiwadake Castle, Koiwadake Zusho, who had resisted until the end.

It was said that Ogasawara Nagatoki had run to Echigo, but he was nowhere to be found.


In November 27 of that year, Takeda Harunobu's first son, Taro Yoshinobu, was married to the daughter of Imagawa Yoshimoto


In that time, Harunobu created three military roads from Tsutaki in Suwa to Daimon Pass. This was to prepare for their attack on Murakami Yoshikiyo.

It was then that Yamamoto Kansuke suddenly returned.
OH, KANSUKE. HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN?
I, KANSUKE, HAVE JUST RETURNED. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SON'S WEDDING.

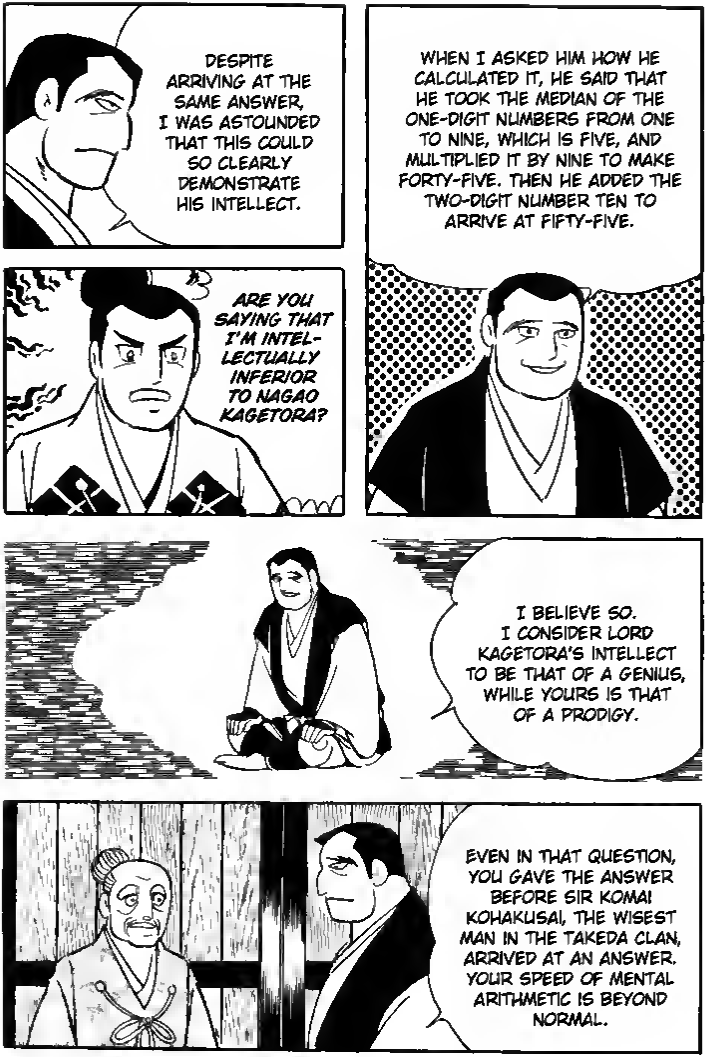

YES, MY LORD. YOU ASKED ME TO FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF MAN NAGAO KAGETORA (UESUGI KENSHIN) WAS...
I AM SURE IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE THE BATTLE OF SHIOJIRI PASS.
I SUPPOSE IT TOOK QUITE A WHILE FOR YOU TO LOOK INTO THE CHARACTER OF KAGETORA
IT HAS BEEN FOUR YEARS AND FOUR MONTHS SINCE.
I APPROACHED HIM AS A RIFLE DEALER
HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO GET CLOSE TO KAGETORA?
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WANTED TO KNOW LORD KAGETORA'S HABITS, FROM HIS TASTE IN FOOD TO HIS TASTE IN WOMEN... AND TO INVESTIGATE THAT, I HAD TO GET CLOSE TO LORD KAGETORA.

OH? HOW MANY RIFLES DID YOU SELL HIM?
I AM NOW GREATLY TRUSTED BY LORD KAGETORA AS A RIFLE DEALER
I SOLD HIM ABOUT A HUNDRED.
NO, THERE WERE OTHER DEALERS, SO I WOULD SAY ABOUT THREE HUNDRED...
WHAT? THREE HUNDRED !?
SO ECHIGO HAS A HUNDRED RIFLES?
LORD KAGETORA TOLD US WE MAY BUY ALL THE RIFLES MANUFACTURED IN SAKAI THAT WE CAN.
AND WHAT WOULD HE DO WITH SO MANY RIFLES?

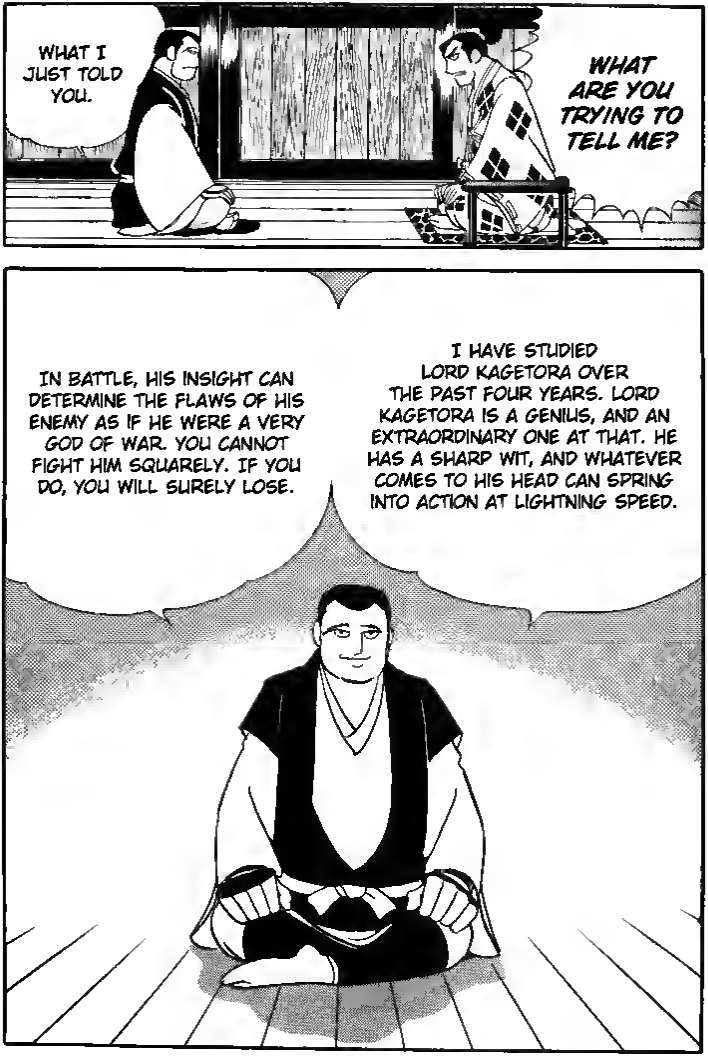
ECHIGO MUST BE COLLECTING RIFLES SO NO OTHER PROVINCE GETS THEIR HANDS ON THEM.
WHAT?
I FEAR THAT LORD NAGAO KAGETORA IS THE RICHEST MAN IN OUR NATION. HE HAS CONTROL OF THE GOLD MINE OF SADO, AND HAS NO LACK OF GOLD.
BUT DOES KAGETORA HAVE THE MONEY FOR THEM?
I HAVE GONE TO SEE IT MYSELF, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH IT WOULD PRODUCE IF THEY MINED ALL THEY COULD.
THE GOLD MINE OF SADO?

WHAT!?
WITH HIS WEALTH AND ARMS... AT THIS RATE I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF LORD NAGAO KAGETORA CLAIMED THE NATION.
ONE CANNOT CLAIM THE NATION WITH JUST MONEY, BUT ONE CANNOT CLAIM THE NATION WITH NO MONEY, EITHER. BUT LORD KAGETORA HAS NOT JUST MONEY, BUT TALENT.
DO YOU BELIEVE ONE CAN CLAIM THE NATION WITH JUST MONEY?
I AM NOT AMUSED. HOW ARE YOU SO SURE HE HAS THE TALENT?
? ?
I WOULD LIKE YOU AND SIR KOMAI TO GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION.

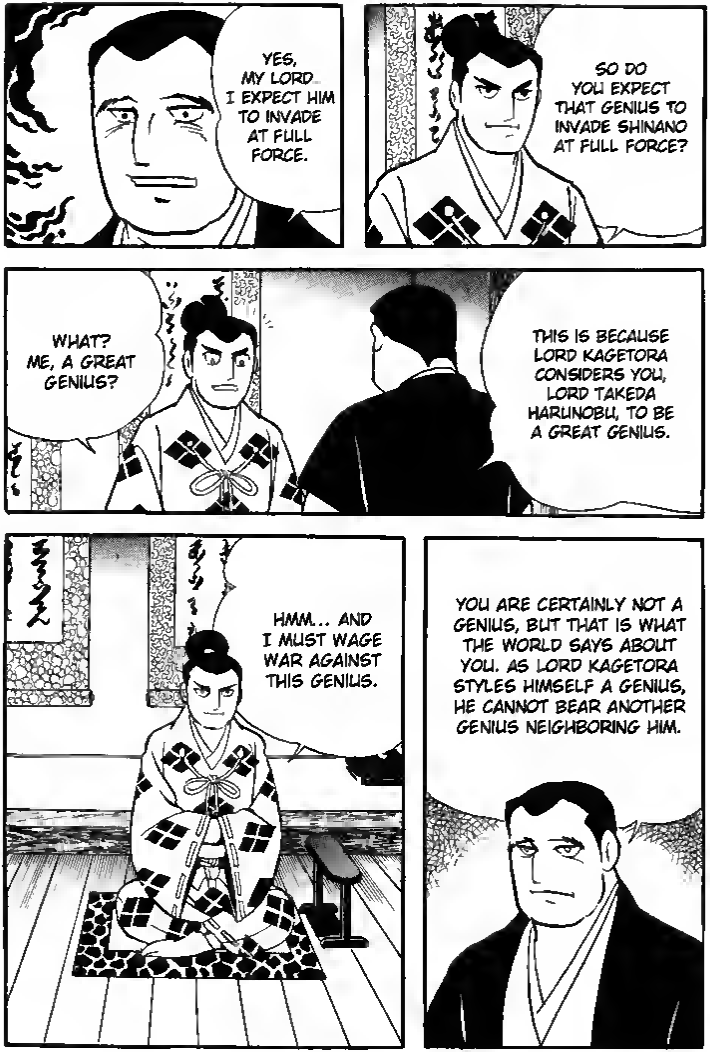
ADD ONE TO TWO, THEN ADD THREE...
IF YOU ADD ONE TO TWO, THEN ADD THREE TO THAT, THEN CONTINUE UNTIL ADDING TEN, WHAT WOULD THE TOTAL BE?
YES.
JUDGING BY THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES, I GUESS THAT YOU REACHED THE ANSWER BY SIMPLE ADDITION, BY ADDING ONE TO TWO, THEN THREE TO THAT.
THAT WOULD BE FIFTY-FIVE.
YES, IT IS FIFTY-FIVE.
BUT WHEN I POSED THIS QUESTION TO LORD KAGETORA, HE REFLEXIVELY ANSWERED FIFTY-FIVE.


DESPITE ARRIVING AT THE SAME ANSWER, I WAS ASTOUNDED THAT THIS COULD SO CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE HIS INTELLECT.
WHEN I ASKED HIM HOW HE CALCULATED IT, HE SAID THAT HE TOOK THE MEDIAN OF THE ONE-DIGIT NUMBERS FROM ONE TO NINE, WHICH IS FIVE, AND MULTIPLIED IT BY NINE TO MAKE FORTY-FIVE. THEN HE ADDED THE TWO-DIGIT NUMBER TEN TO ARRIVE AT FIFTY-FIVE.
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M INTEL-LECTUALLY INFERIOR TO NAGAO KAGETORA?
I BELIEVE SO. I CONSIDER LORD KAGETORA'S INTELLECT TO BE THAT OF A GENIUS, WHILE YOURS IS THAT OF A PRODIGY.
EVEN IN THAT QUESTION, YOU GAVE THE ANSWER BEFORE SIR KOMAI KOHAKUSAI, THE WISEST MAN IN THE TAKEDA CLAN, ARRIVED AT AN ANSWER. YOUR SPEED OF MENTAL ARITHMETIC IS BEYOND NORMAL.

I WOULD CALCULATE IT MUCH LIKE YOU DID. BUT AS THOSE TRAINED IN THE WAY OF THE NINJA ARE TRAINED IN MENTAL ARITHMETIC, I WOULD HAVE COME AT THE ANSWER FASTER THAN MOST.
THEN HOW WOULD YOU SOLVE IT!?
ARE YOU PRAISING ME OR SPEAKING ILL OF ME?
MY ARITHMETIC IS THE ARITHMETIC OF A NINJA, LORD KAGETORA'S IS THE ARITHMETIC OF A GENIUS, AND YOURS IS THE ARITHMETIC OF A PRODIGY.
I AM PRAISING YOU. IF A GENIUS AND PRODIGY CONTEND ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THE GENIUS WILL ALWAYS WIN THE BATTLE, BUT THE PRODIGY WILL WIN THE WAR.


WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?
IN BATTLE, HIS INSIGHT CAN DETERMINE THE FLAWS OF HIS ENEMY AS IF HE WERE A VERY GOD OF WAR. YOU CANNOT FIGHT HIM SQUARELY. IF YOU DO, YOU WILL SURELY LOSE.
I HAVE STUDIED LORD KAGETORA OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. LORD KAGETORA IS A GENIUS, AND AN EXTRAORDINARY ONE AT THAT. HE HAS A SHARP WIT, AND WHATEVER COMES TO HIS HEAD CAN SPRING INTO ACTION AT LIGHTNING SPEED.

YES, MY LORD. YOU WILL LOSE. THEREFORE I CONSIDER IT BETTER THAT YOU AVOID FIGHTING HIM.
I WILL LOSE!?
OF COURSE I WILL!
BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO FIGHT HIM IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT.
.....
YOU MUST PREPARE FOR DEFEAT AND FIGHT WITH THE IDEA THAT YOU MAY BE DEFEATED WELL IN MIND. THEN YOU MAY TURN THAT DEFEAT INTO A VICTORY IN THE END. THAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GENIUS AND A PRODIGY.

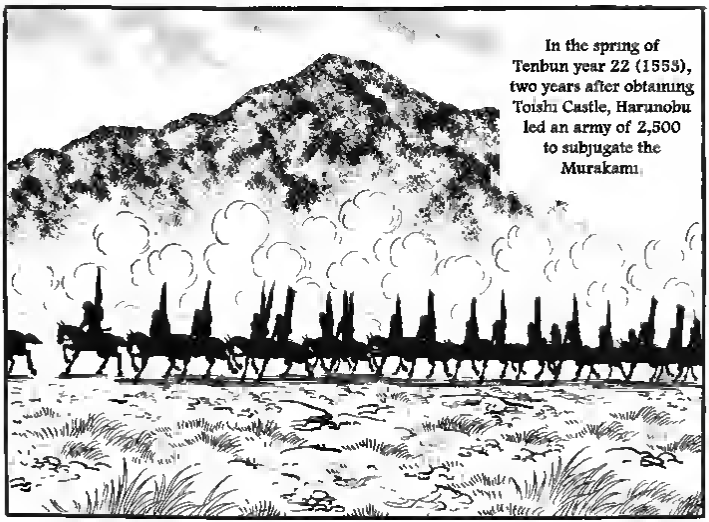

YES, MY LORD. I EXPECT HIM TO INVADE AT FULL FORCE.
SO DO YOU EXPECT THAT GENIUS TO INVADE SHINANO AT FULL FORCE?
WHAT? ME, A GREAT GENIUS?
THIS IS BECAUSE LORD KAGETORA CONSIDERS YOU, LORD TAKEDA HARUNOBU, TO BE A GREAT GENIUS.
HMM... AND I MUST WAGE WAR AGAINST THIS GENIUS.
YOU ARE CERTAINLY NOT A GENIUS, BUT THAT IS WHAT THE WORLD SAYS ABOUT YOU. AS LORD KAGETORA STYLES HIMSELF A GENIUS, HE CANNOT BEAR ANOTHER GENIUS NEIGHBORING HIM.

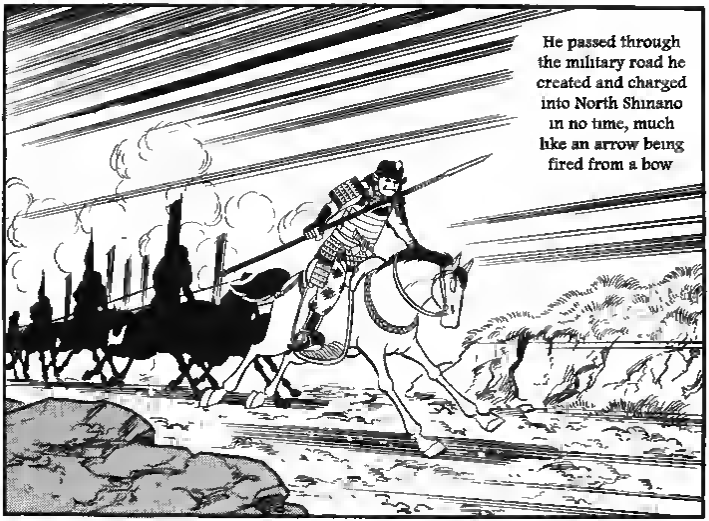
TAKEDA SHINGEN

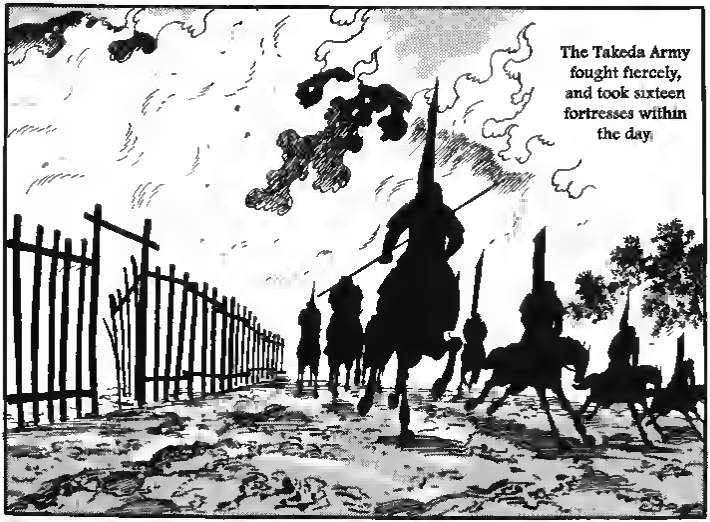
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 33

Chapter 34: The Dragon of Echigo

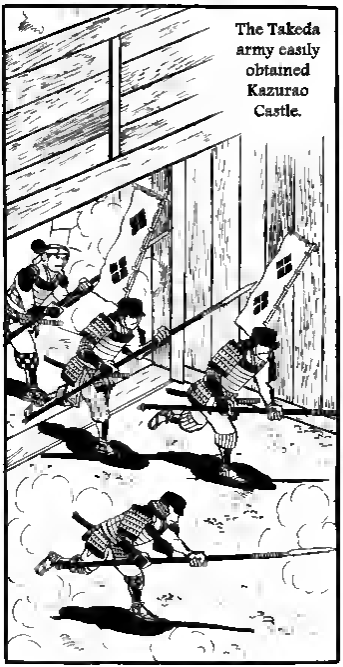

In the spring of Tenbun year 22 (1553), two years after obtaining Toishi Castle, Harunobu led an army of 2,500 to subjugate the Murakami.


He passed through the military road he created and charged into North Shinano in no time, much like an arrow being fired from a bow


The Takeda Army fought fiercely, and took sixteen fortresses within the day.

Murakami Yoshikiyo abandoned Kazurao Castle in a panic, and ran to Shiota Castle.

They marched further, and advanced to the Hachiman Shrine before Kawanakajima.


The Takeda army easily obtained Kazurao Castle.

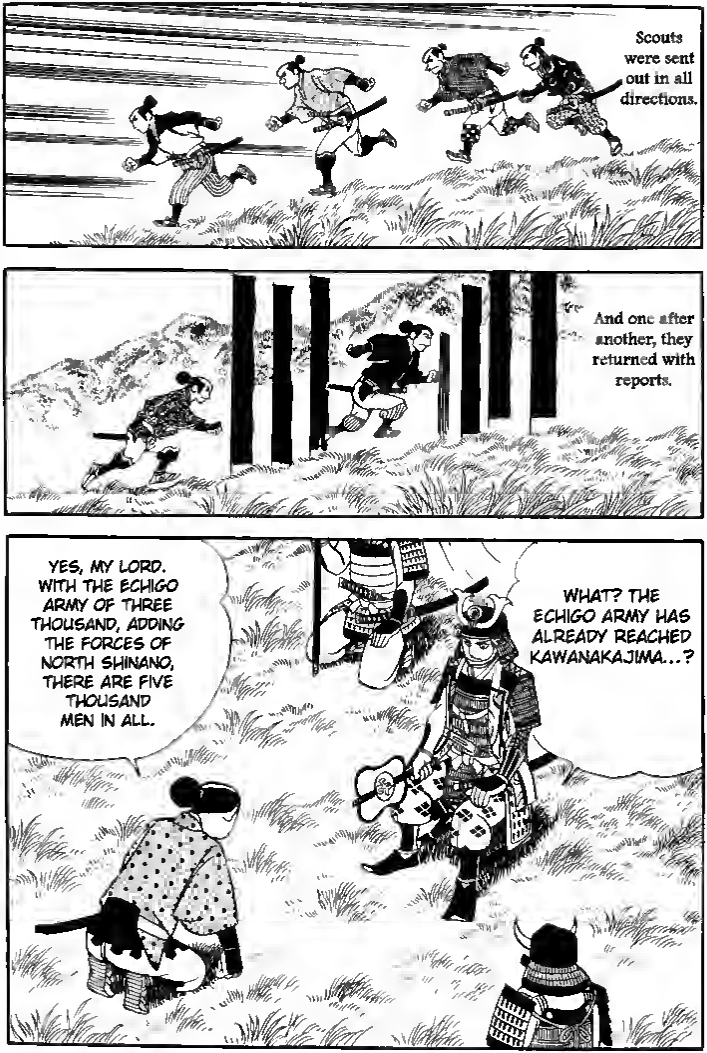
侵掠如火
不動如山

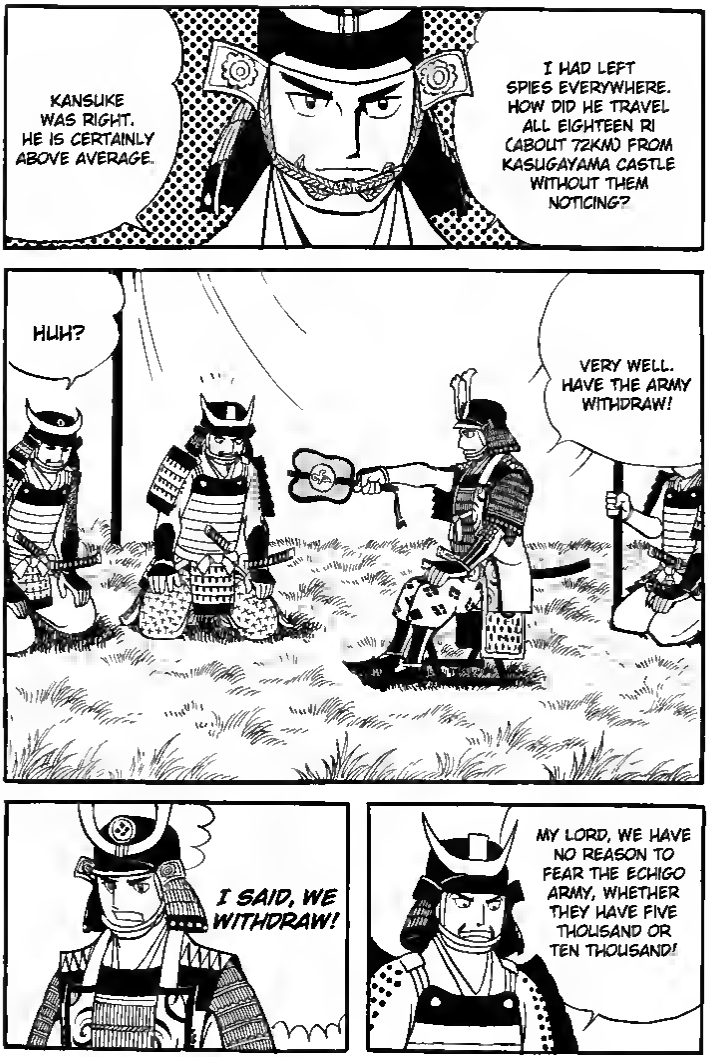
I'M A MESSENGER OF SIR YAMAMOTO KANSUKE. I WANT TO SEE THE MASTER.

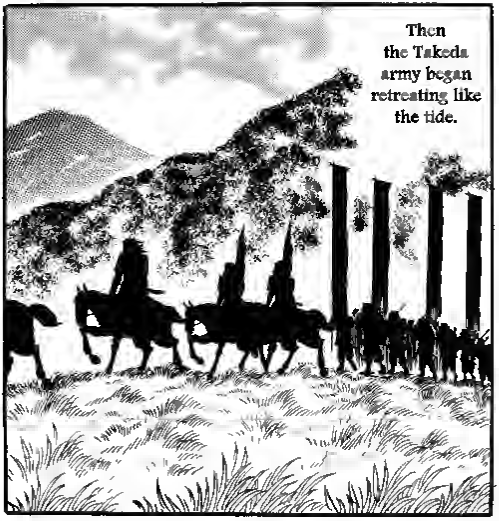
HALT, BOY!

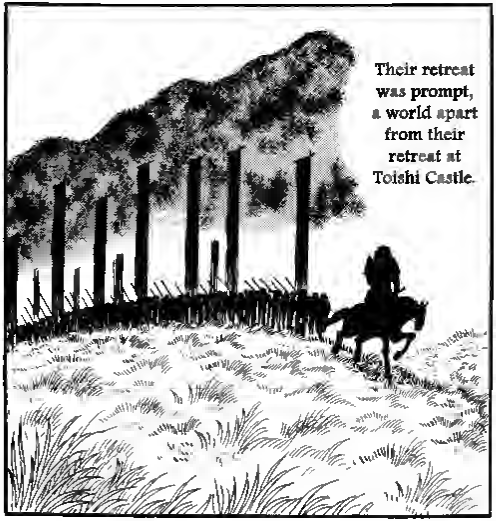
VERY WELL. RIGHT THIS WAY.
GOOD. SEND HIM IN.
MY LORD, THERE IS A CHILD HERE CLAIMING TO BE A MESSENGER OF YAMAMOTO KANSUKE.
YES, MY LORD. HE ASKED ME TO HURRY TO TELL YOU THIS.
YOU ARE A MESSENGER OF KANSUKE?

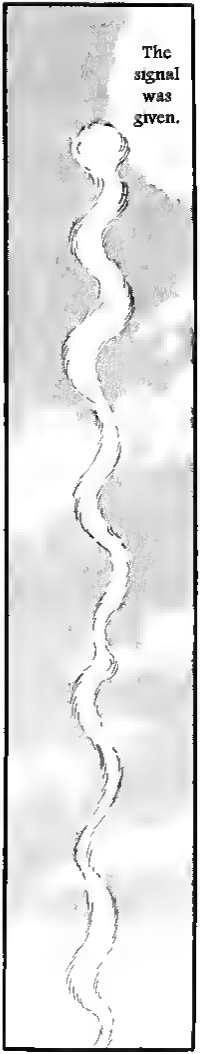
LORD NAGAO KAGETORA OF KASUGAYAMA CASTLE HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO SALLY FORTH. HE HAS CHOSEN TO DEPART ON APRIL 15TH, TAKING THREE THOUSAND ELITES OF ECHIGO AND THREE HUNDRED RIFLES.
THREE DAYS AGO, ON APRIL 15TH.
GOOD WORK. AND WHEN DID YOU LEAVE ECHIGO?
YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL. SEND OUT SCOUTS.


Scouts were sent out in all directions.
And one after another, they returned with reports.
YES, MY LORD. WITH THE ECHIGO ARMY OF THREE THOUSAND, ADDING THE FORCES OF NORTH SHINANO, THERE ARE FIVE THOUSAND MEN IN ALL.
WHAT? THE ECHIGO ARMY HAS ALREADY REACHED KAWANAKAJIMA...?


KANSUKE WAS RIGHT. HE IS CERTAINLY ABOVE AVERAGE.
I HAD LEFT SPIES EVERYWHERE. HOW DID HE TRAVEL ALL EIGHTEEN RI (ABOUT 72KM) FROM KASUGAYAMA CASTLE WITHOUT THEM NOTICING?
HUH?
VERY WELL. HAVE THE ARMY WITHDRAW!
I SAID, WE WITHDRAW!
MY LORD, WE HAVE NO REASON TO FEAR THE ECHIGO ARMY, WHETHER THEY HAVE FIVE THOUSAND OR TEN THOUSAND!

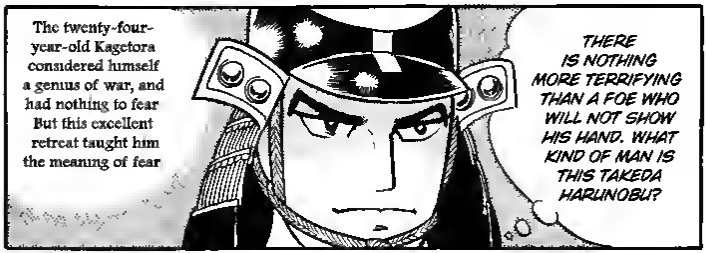

Then the Takeda army began retreating like the tide.

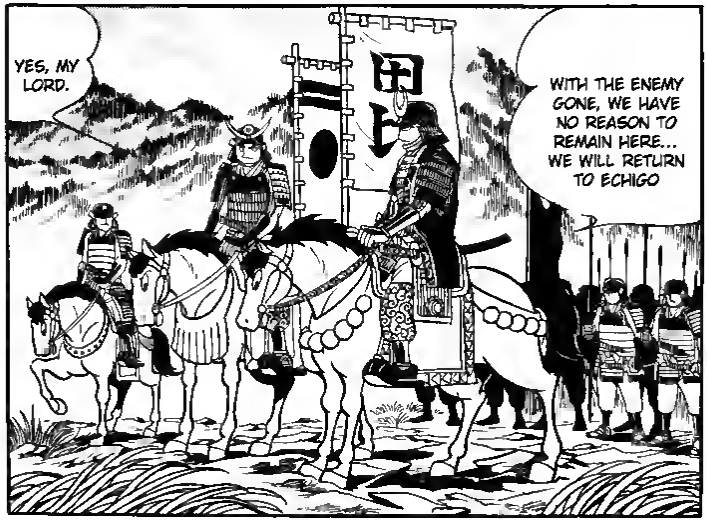

Their retreat was prompt, a world apart from their retreat at Toishi Castle.

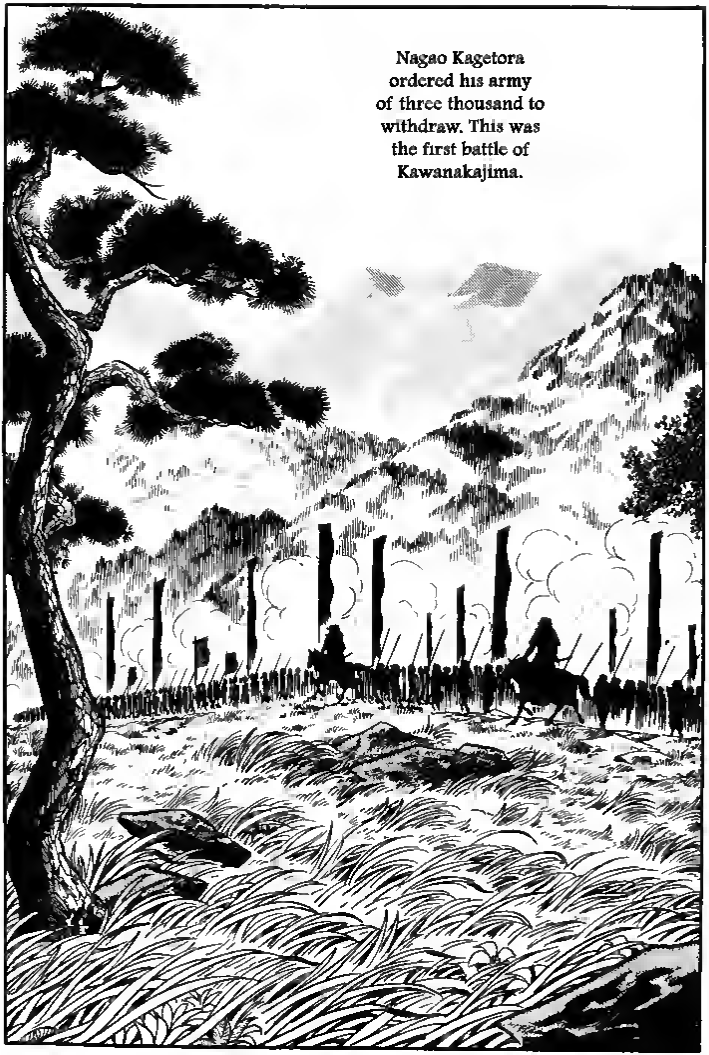

The signal was given.

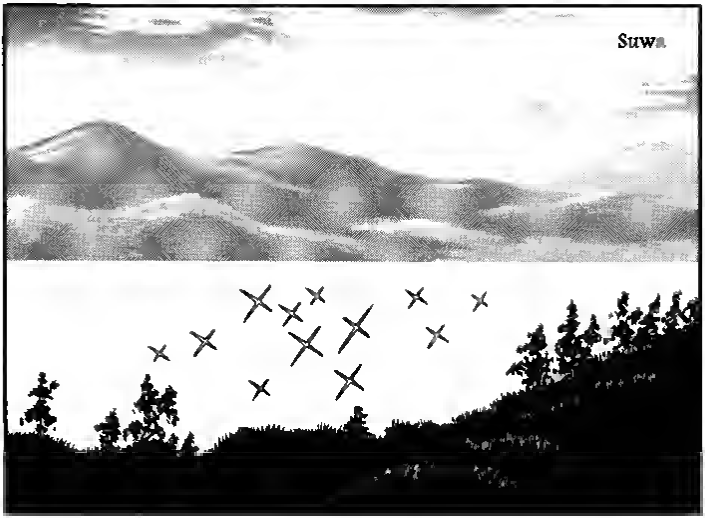
But the Takeda soldiers garrisoned in Kazurao Castle did not make it on time, and were exterminated
NO, MY LORD. THEY ARE NOWHERE IN SIGHT.
WHAT? THE TAKEDA SOLDIERS ARE NOT HERE?

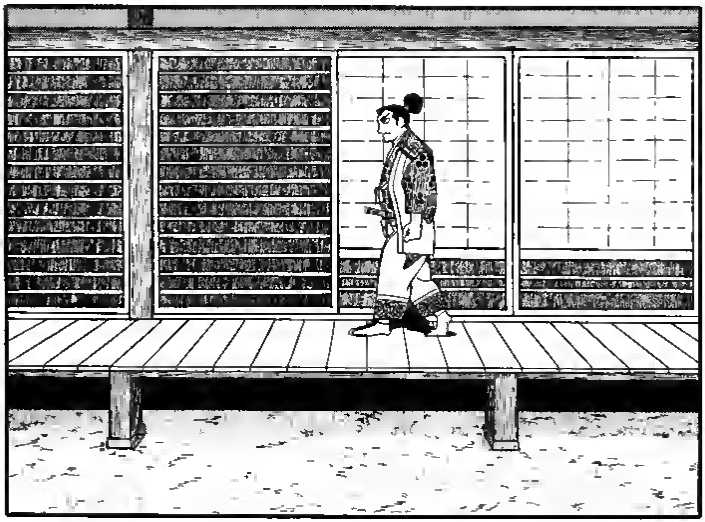
HMM... SPLENDID. HE CAN USE HIS SOLDIERS LIKE HIS OWN ARMS AND LEGS.


The twenty-four-year-old Kagetora considered himself a genius of war, and had nothing to fear But this excellent retreat taught him the meaning of fear
THERE IS NOTHING MORE TERRIFYING THAN A FOE WHO WILL NOT SHOW HIS HAND. WHAT KIND OF MAN IS THIS TAKEDA HARUNOBU?


YES, MY LORD.
WITH THE ENEMY GONE, WE HAVE NO REASON TO REMAIN HERE... WE WILL RETURN TO ECHIGO

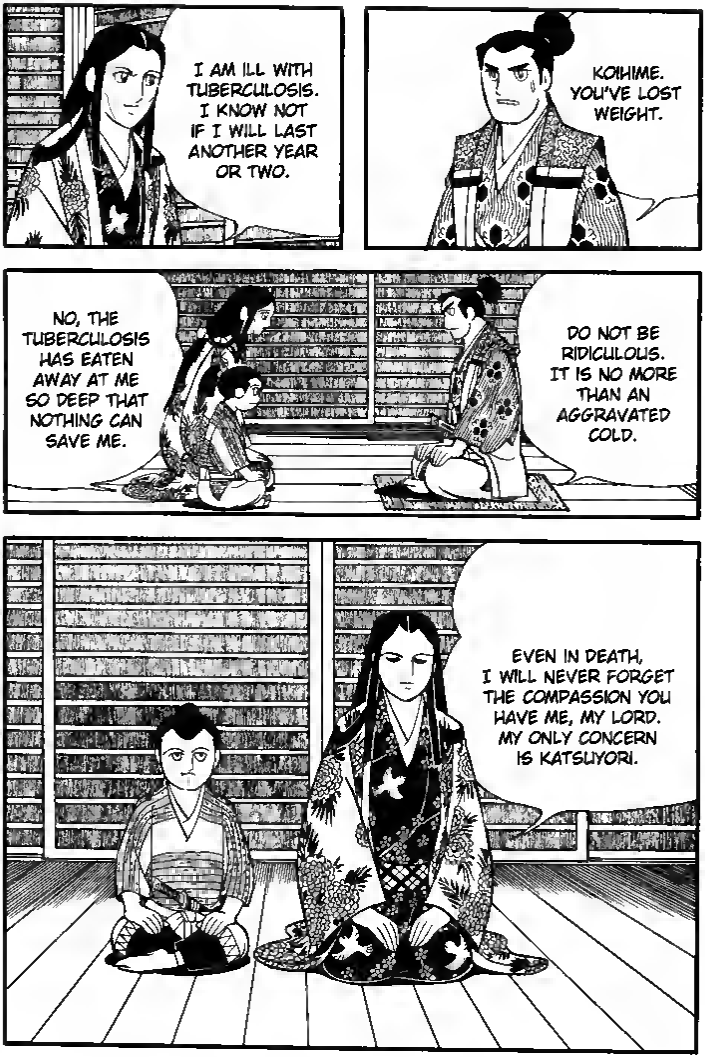

Nagao Kagetora
ordered his army
of three thousand to
withdraw. This was
the first battle of
Kawanakajima.

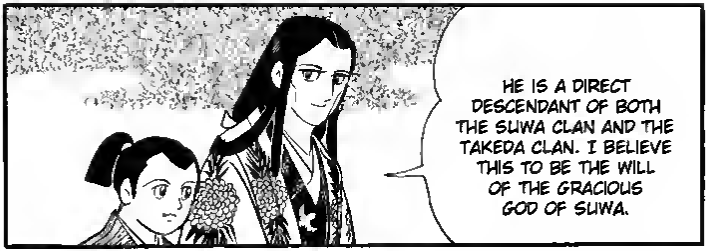

Suwa

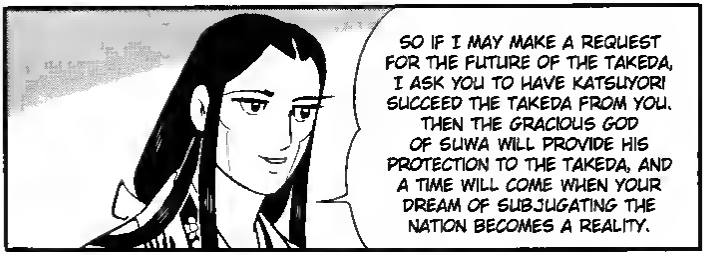


WOULD YOU MIND WAITING? THE LADY IS BEDRIDDEN WITH ILLNESS.
I AM RETURNING FROM WAR, BUT I WISHED TO SEE KOHIME
OH, MY LORD!
YES, MY LORD. SHE HAS HAD A CONSTANT FEVER, AND SHE HAS LOST WEIGHT.
WHAT? IS IT SERIOUS?
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN SEEING HER IN BED...
THEN I MUST GO EXPRESS MY SYMPATHY!

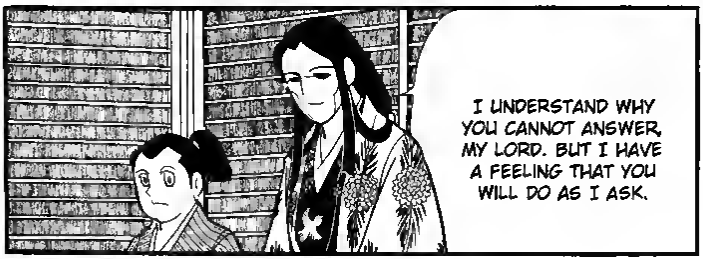
THEN I WILL TELL MY LADY. PLEASE, WAIT HERE.
NO MATTER. KOIHIME IS MY CONCUBINE. THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN.
HMM... I HAVE HEARD FROM TACHIKI SENGEN THAT KOIHIME HAD CAUGHT TUBERCULOSIS, BUT TO THINK IT WAS THIS BAD...


I AM ILL WITH TUBERCULOSIS. I KNOW NOT IF I WILL LAST ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO.
KOIHIME. YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT.
NO, THE TUBERCULOSIS HAS EATEN AWAY AT ME SO DEEP THAT NOTHING CAN SAVE ME.
DO NOT BE RIDICULOUS. IT IS NO MORE THAN AN AGGRAVATED COLD.
EVEN IN DEATH, I WILL NEVER FORGET THE COMPASSION YOU HAVE ME, MY LORD. MY ONLY CONCERN IS KATSUYORI.


HE IS A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF BOTH THE SUWA CLAN AND THE TAKEDA CLAN. I BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE WILL OF THE GRACIOUS GOD OF SUWA.


SO IF I MAY MAKE A REQUEST FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TAKEDA, I ASK YOU TO HAVE KATSUYORI SUCCEED THE TAKEDA FROM YOU. THEN THE GRACIOUS GOD OF SUWA WILL PROVIDE HIS PROTECTION TO THE TAKEDA, AND A TIME WILL COME WHEN YOUR DREAM OF SUBJUGATING THE NATION BECOMES A REALITY.

Harunobu had a son, Taro Yoshinobu, born from Lady Sanjo. He had to be careful with his answer


I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CANNOT ANSWER, MY LORD. BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU WILL DO AS I ASK.

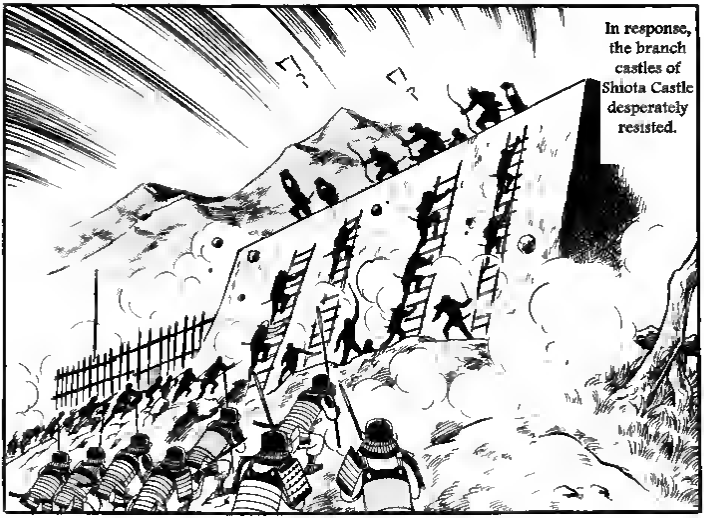
ガバッ
HURRY TO YOUR CHAMBER, MY LADY!
MY LADY! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
Harunobu could not help but feel pity for Koihime, as the Suwa had been destroyed, and in spite of her youth, she had lost her very future.

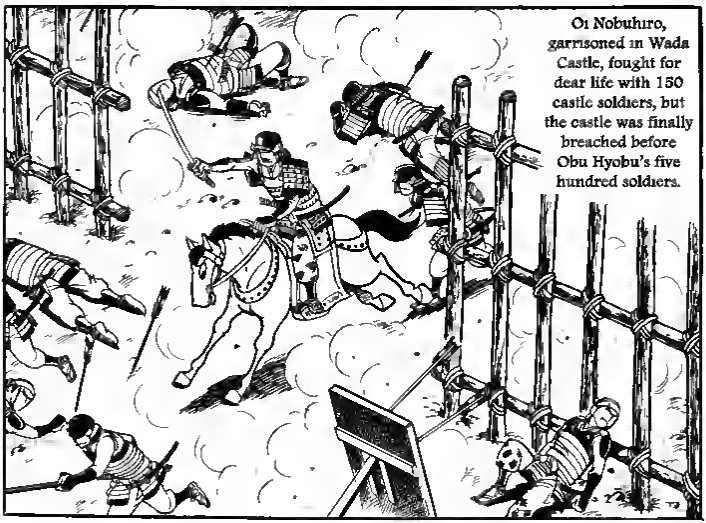
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 34

Chapter 35: The End of Kohakusai

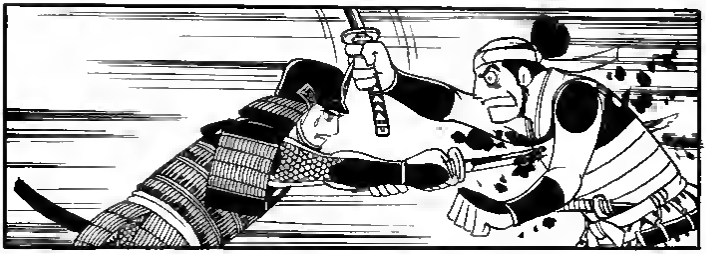

In response, the branch castles of Shiota Castle desperately resisted.


Oi Nobuhiro, garrisoned in Wada Castle, fought for dear life with 150 castle soldiers, but the castle was finally breached before Obu Hyobu's five hundred soldiers.

Oi Nobuhiro set the castle on fire and fell on his sword.
I KNOW IT IS KILL OR BE KILLED, BUT THIS SIGHT REPULSES ME EVERY TIME.
The rest were at the mercy of the Takeda Army.

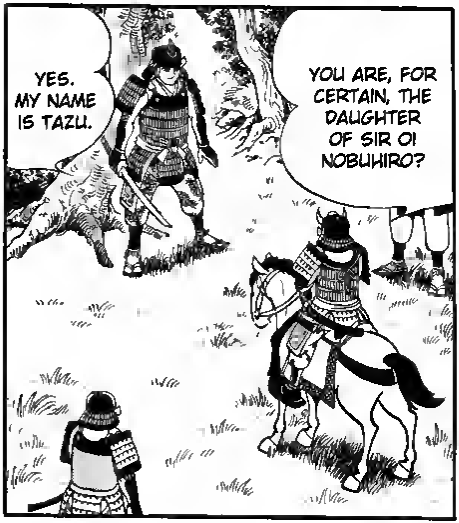
HUH?
HE SEEMS TO BE A YOUNG WARRIOR OF HIGH STATUS

DON'T KILL HER! TAKE HER ALIVE SO WE CAN HAVE SOME FUN!
THIS ONE'S A WOMAN!
STAND BACK! I AM THE DAUGHTER OF OI NOBUHIRO!
HEH! SO YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF THE CASTLE LORD? THAT JUST MAKES YOU ALL THE MORE WORTH IT!



HALT!

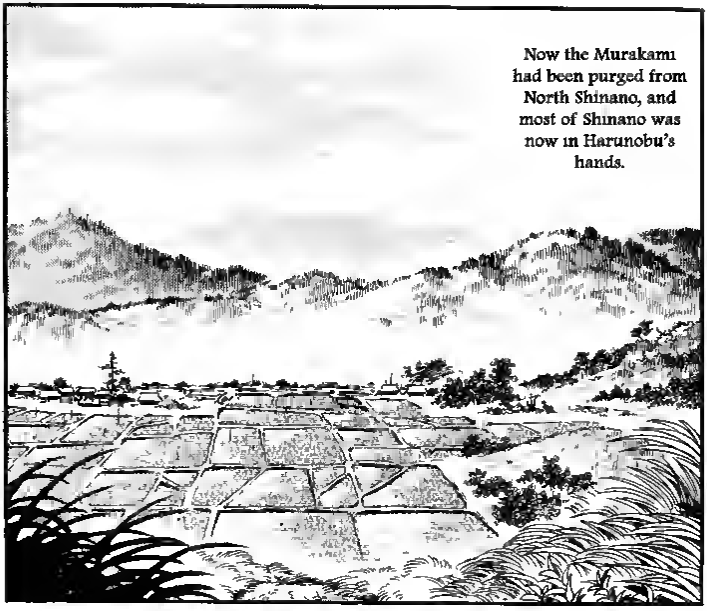
NNNGH! YOU'LL LIVE TO REGRET THAT!


YES. MY NAME IS TAZU.
YOU ARE, FOR CERTAIN, THE DAUGHTER OF SIR OI NOBUHIRO?

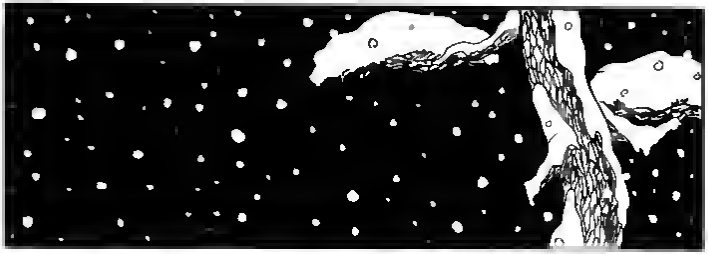
SIR KOHA-KUSAI!

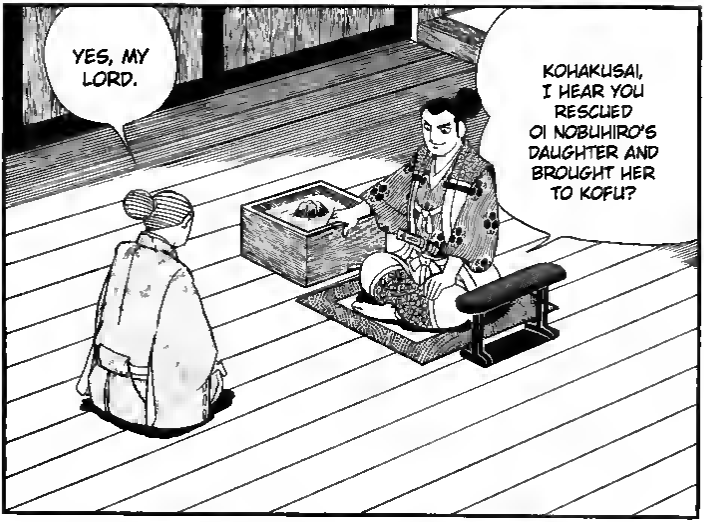
THEN REMAIN CALM. I AM KOMAI KOHAKUSAI, AND I AM HERE TO TAKE YOU TO MY LORD.
...
COME WITH ME.
Y-YES, SIR.
NOW.

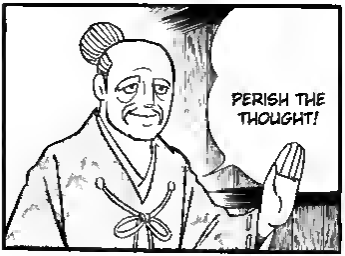
The Takeda Army went on to take Takashimaya Castle,
and Uramura Castle
Murakami Yoshikiyo escaped from Shiota Castle, and went missing.


Now the Murakami had been purged from North Shinano, and most of Shinano was now in Harunobu's hands.

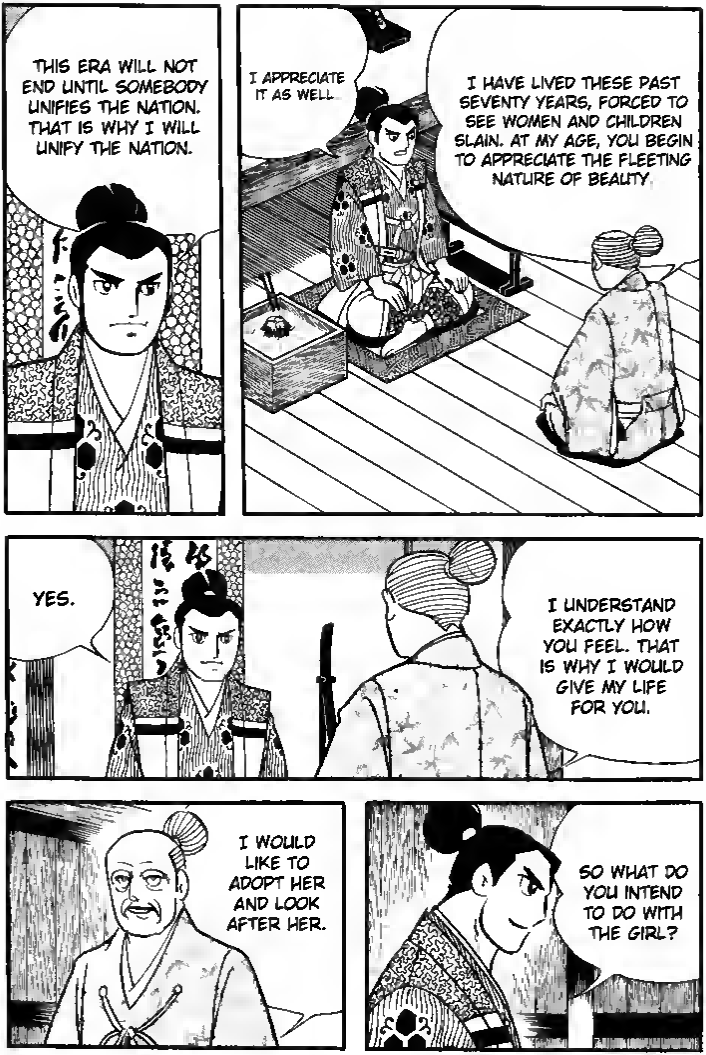
Harunobu withdrew to Kofu triumphantly Harunobu was thirty-three at the time.



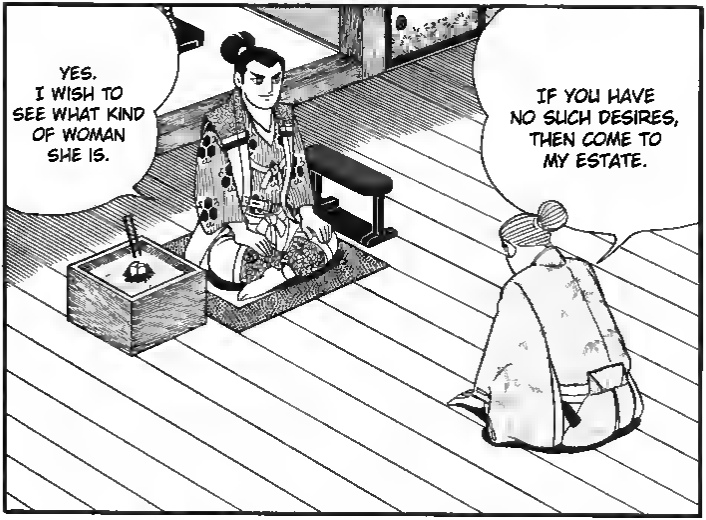

KOHAKUSAI, I HEAR YOU RESCUED OI NOBUHIRO'S DAUGHTER AND BROUGHT HER TO KOFU?
YES, MY LORD.

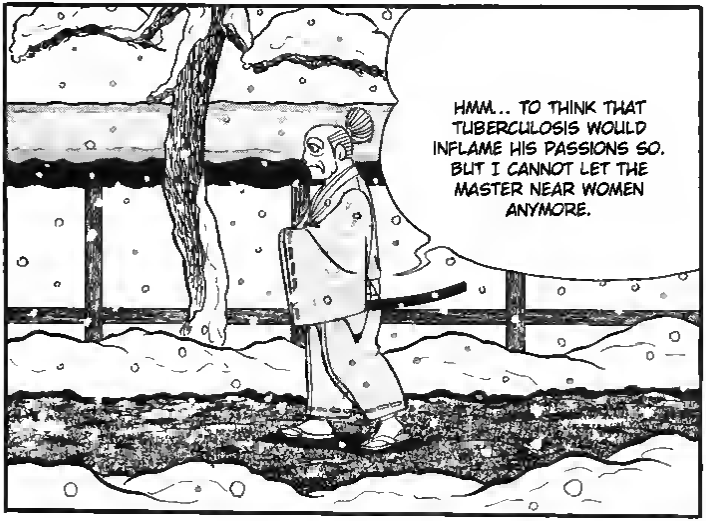

PERISH THE THOUGHT!

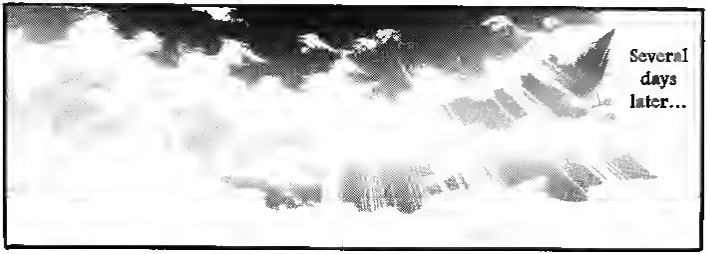
YOU ARE ALMOST SEVENTY YEARS OLD. DO YOU STILL DESIRE YOUNG WOMEN?


THIS ERA WILL NOT END UNTIL SOMEBODY UNIFIES THE NATION. THAT IS WHY I WILL UNIFY THE NATION.
I APPRECIATE IT AS WELL.
I HAVE LIVED THESE PAST SEVENTY YEARS, FORCED TO SEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN SLAIN. AT MY AGE, YOU BEGIN TO APPRECIATE THE FLEETING NATURE OF BEAUTY.
YES.
I UNDERSTAND EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL. THAT IS WHY I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE FOR YOU.
I WOULD LIKE TO ADOPT HER AND LOOK AFTER HER.
SO WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THE GIRL?

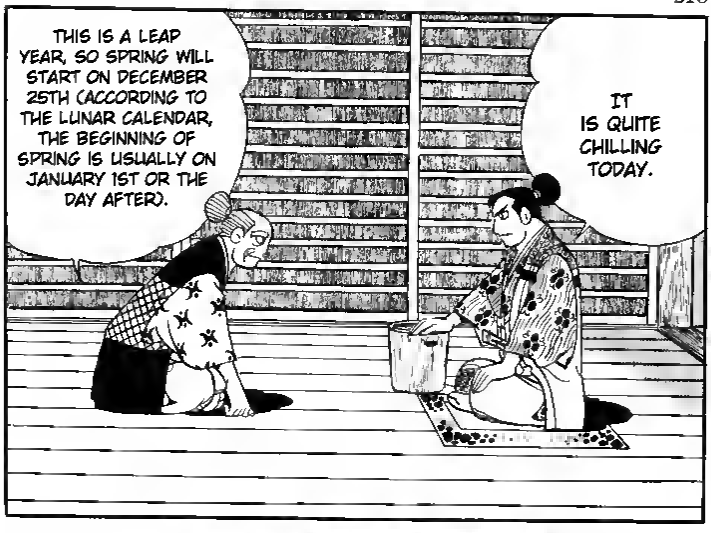
OH? IF SHE HAS EARNED YOUR FAVOUR TO THAT EXTENT, I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE HER.
I ONLY ASK FOR YOUR PERMISSION.
OH, NO...
MY LORD, ARE YOU SURE THAT THE WORM OF LUST HAS NOT RAISED ITS HEAD WITHIN YOU?
THE RUMORS DO SAY THAT SHE IS RATHER BEAUTIFUL.
I KNOW, I KNOW!
DID NOT SENGEN WARN YOU THAT YOUR DISEASE MAKES YOU ABNORMALLY DESIRE THE OTHER SEX, BUT THAT ALSO AGGRAVATES YOUR ILLNESS?

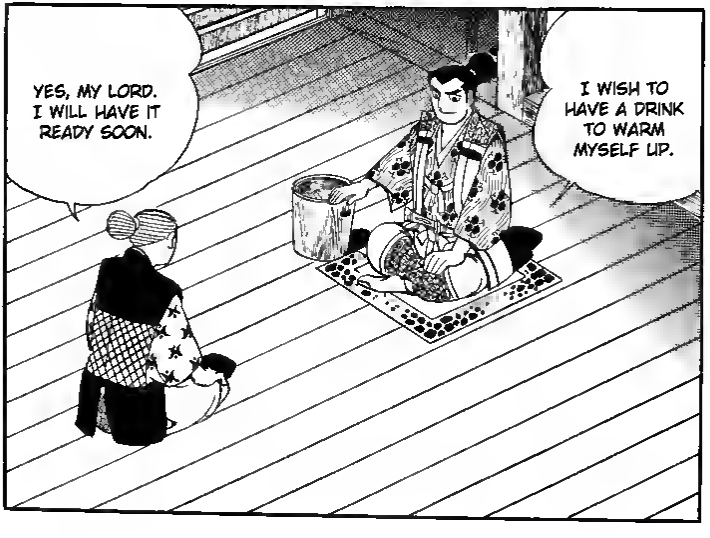

YES.
I WISH TO SEE WHAT KIND OF WOMAN SHE IS.
IF YOU HAVE NO SUCH DESIRES, THEN COME TO MY ESTATE.

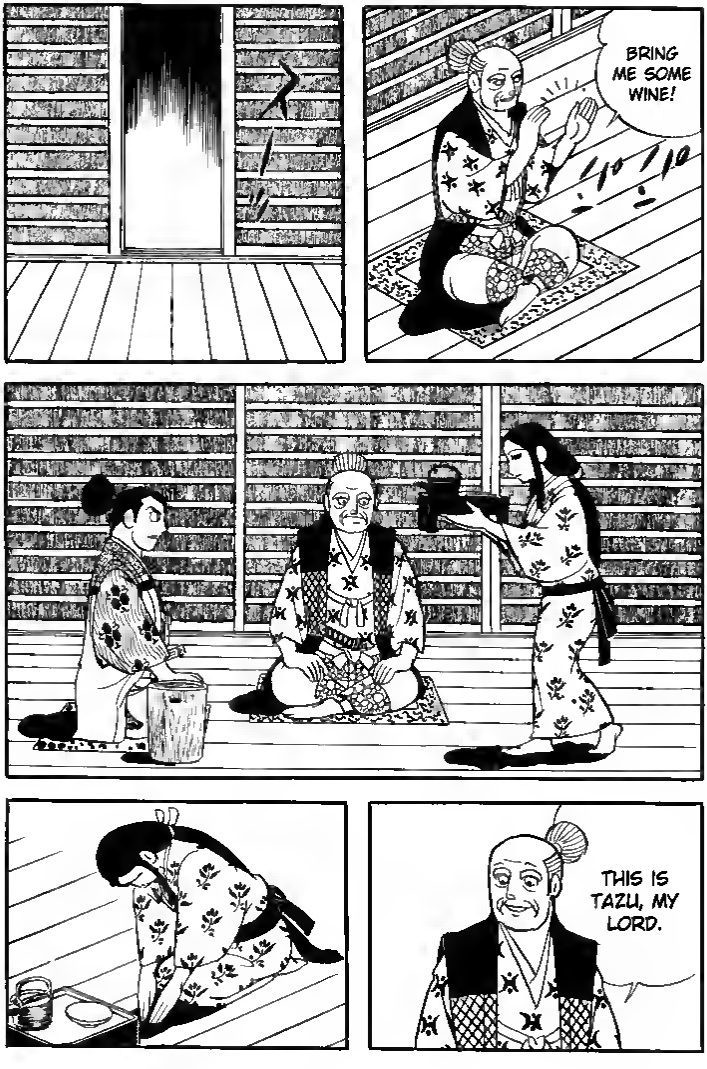

HMM... TO THINK THAT TUBERCULOSIS WOULD INFLAME HIS PASSIONS SO. BUT I CANNOT LET THE MASTER NEAR WOMEN ANYMORE.


Several
days
later...

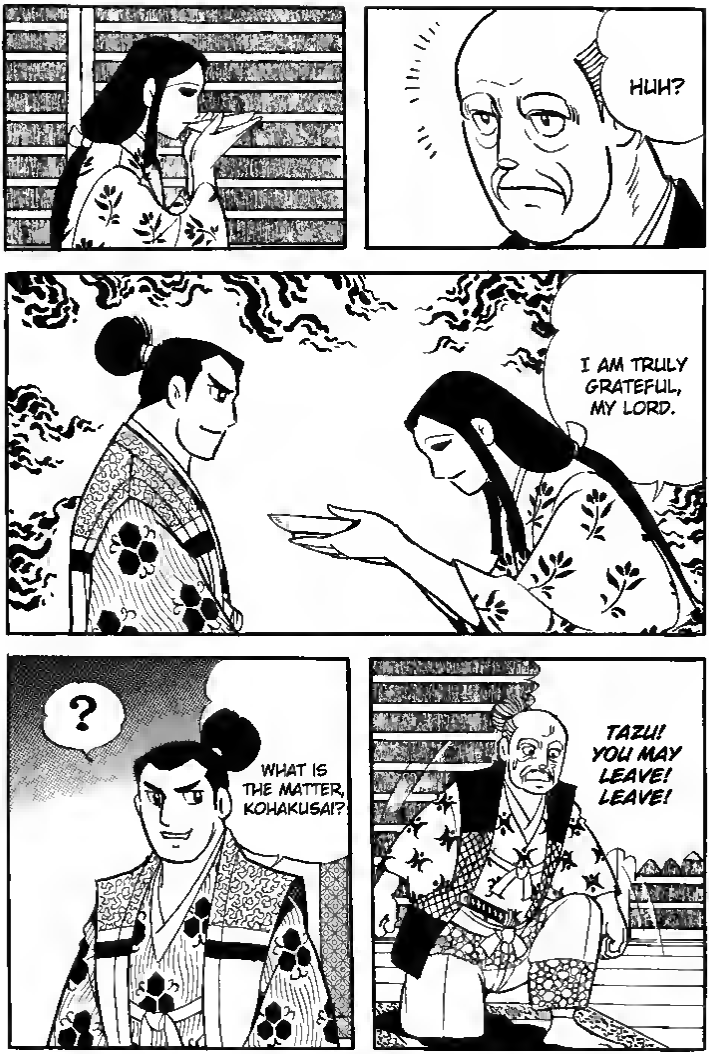
OH, MY LORD! YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING!
KOHAKUSAI, IT'S HARU-NOBU.
WHATEVER THE CASE, DO COME IN.
I KNOW, BUT I HAD A SUDDEN URGE TO SEE OI NOBUHIRO'S DAUGHTER.

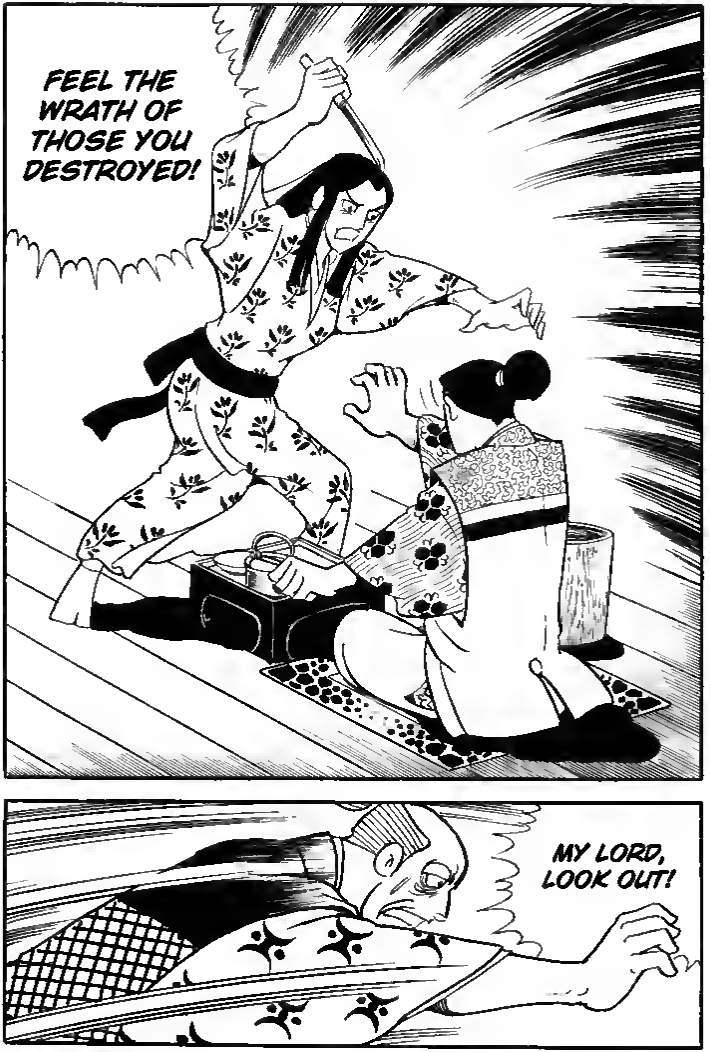

THIS IS A LEAP YEAR, SO SPRING WILL START ON DECEMBER 25TH (ACCORDING TO THE LUNAR CALENDAR, THE BEGINNING OF SPRING IS USUALLY ON JANUARY 1ST OR THE DAY AFTER).
IT IS QUITE CHILLING TODAY.

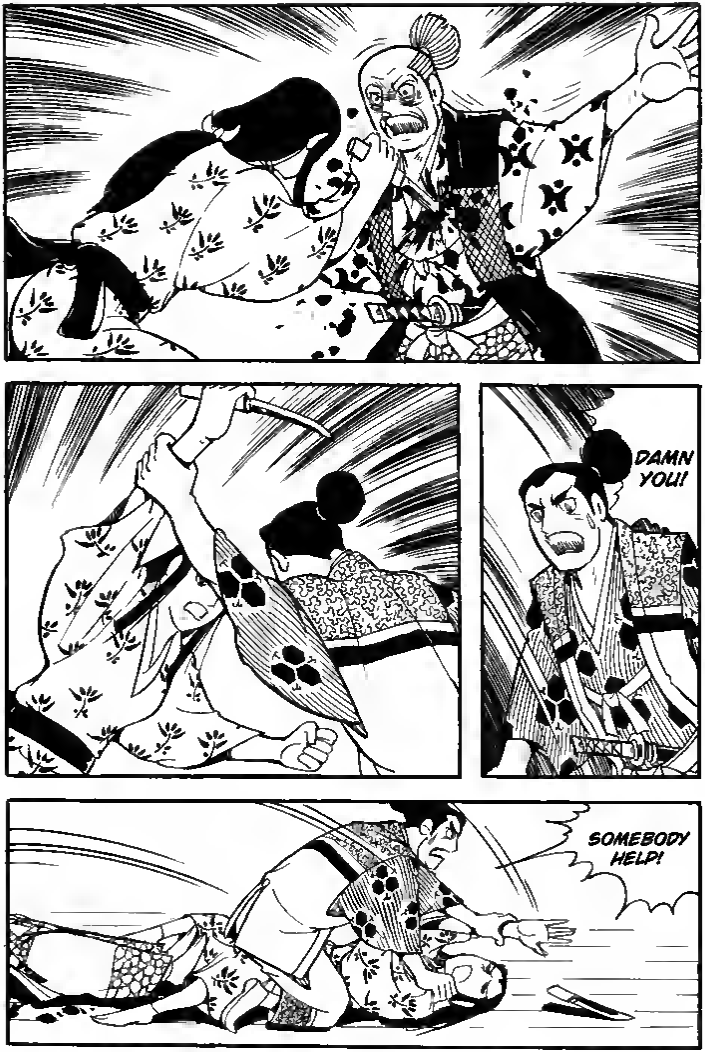

YES, MY LORD. I WILL HAVE IT READY SOON.
I WISH TO HAVE A DRINK TO WARM MYSELF UP.


BRING ME SOME WINE!
THIS IS TAZU, MY LORD.

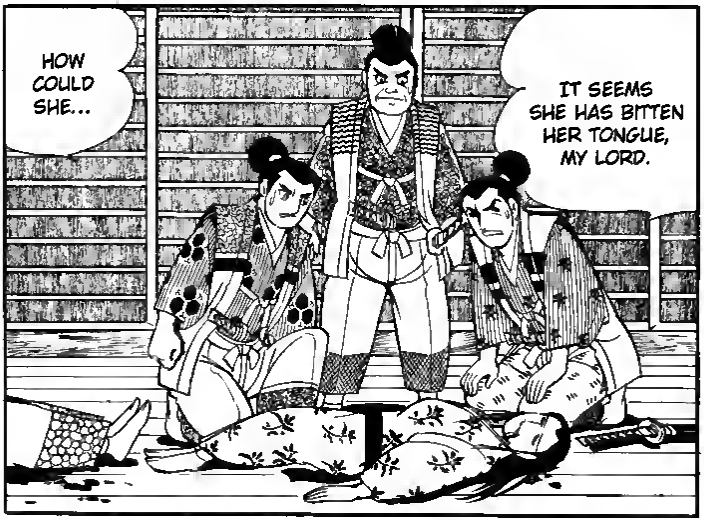
NO, I WILL ONLY SMELL IT.
WILL YOU DRINK?
OH, SHE IS BEAUTIFUL.
YES, MY LORD.
THEN GO AHEAD AND HAVE A SNIFF.


HUH?
I AM TRULY GRATEFUL, MY LORD.
?
WHAT IS THE MATTER, KOHAKUSAI?
TAZU! YOU MAY LEAVE! LEAVE!

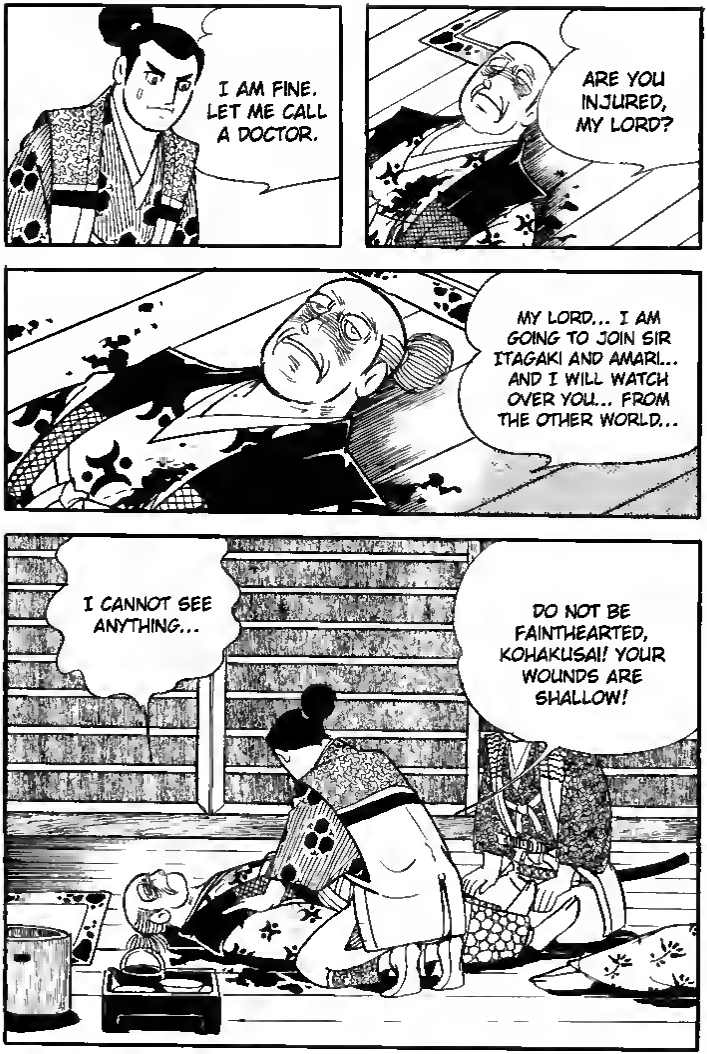

FEEL THE WRATH OF THOSE YOU DESTROYED!
MY LORD, LOOK OUT!


DAMN YOU!
SOMEBODY HELP!

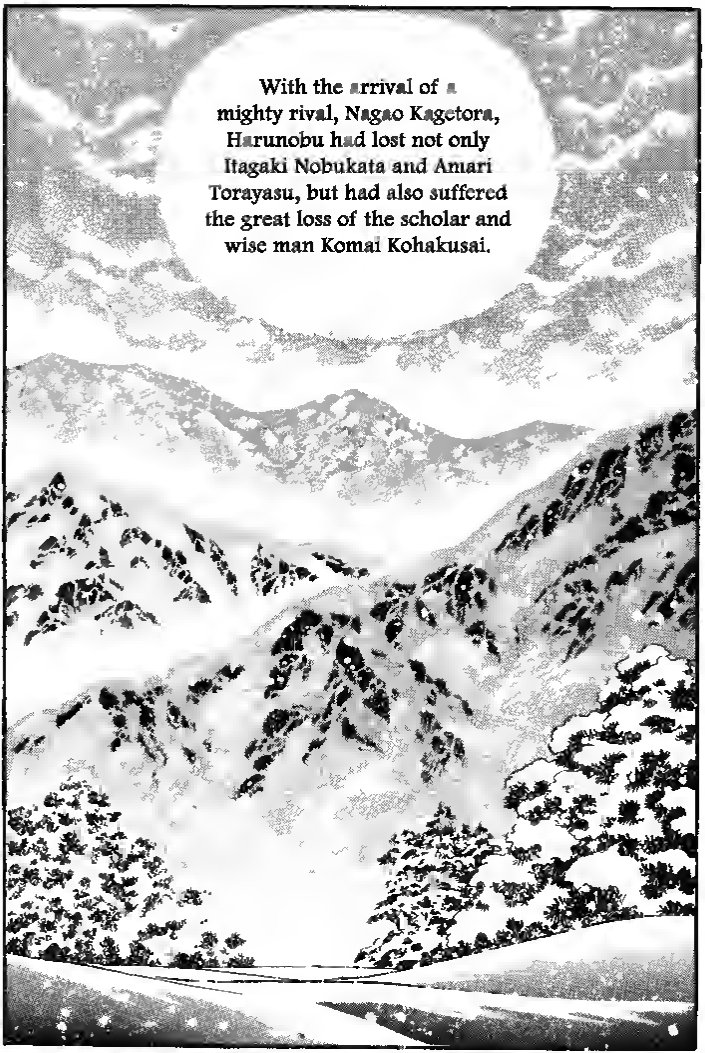
OHH!
AHH!
AH!
URK!


HOW COULD SHE...
IT SEEMS SHE HAS BITTEN HER TONGUE, MY LORD.

KOHA-KUSAI!


I AM FINE. LET ME CALL A DOCTOR.
ARE YOU INJURED, MY LORD?
MY LORD... I AM GOING TO JOIN SIR ITAGAKI AND AMARI... AND I WILL WATCH OVER YOU... FROM THE OTHER WORLD..
I CANNOT SEE ANYTHING...
DO NOT BE FAINTHEARTED, KOHAKUSAI! YOUR WOUNDS ARE SHALLOW!

Kohakusai died in Tenbun year 22 (1553).
KOHAKUSAI!
KOHAKUSAI!


With the arrival of a mighty rival, Nagao Kagetora, Harunobu had lost not only Itagaki Nobukata and Amari Torayasu, but had also suffered the great loss of the scholar and wise man Komai Kohakusai.

The Dragon of Echigo – END

TAKEDA SHINGEN SCRAPBOOK ⑧

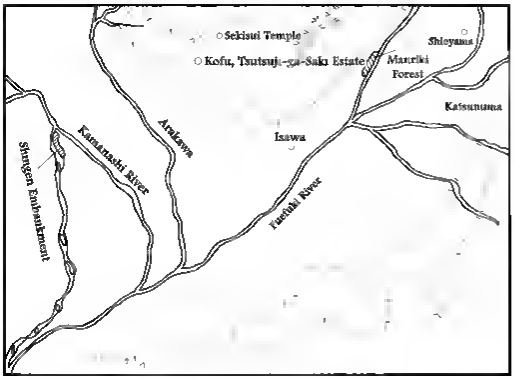
SHIOJIRI PASS – SHINGEN'S RECOVERY BATTLE

View of Lake Suwa from Shiojiri Pass

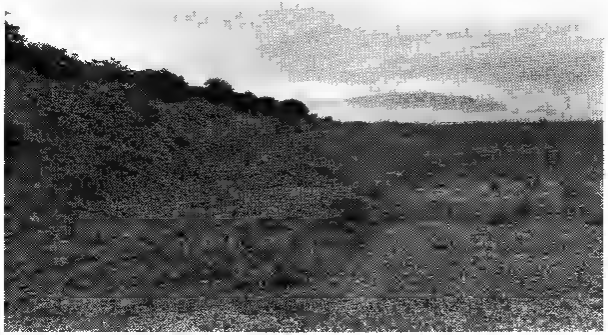
Tenbun year 17 was the most trying year for Shingen, who sought to conquer Shinano. Shignen's defeat at Uedahara had forced him into an unprecedented crisis. But the wounded army of Kai obtained a major recovering victory against Ogasawara Nagatoki, who considered this the perfect time to invade Suwa, with an attack as fast as the wind, laying the foundations for the conquest of Shinano. Shiojiri Pass, which would be the battlefield, was a key point in between Suwa and Ogasawara's headquarters of Fuchu (Matsumoto), and the perfect spot for invading Suwa. It is currently a place where large trucks frequently pass through, but when you stand on the viewing platform and look out over Lake Suwa below you, you can almost feel Nagatoki's delight as he stood in an overwhelmingly advantageous position.
But such gloating would cost him his life…

SHINGEN EMBANKMENT - SHINGEN CONTROLS THE RAGING RIVER

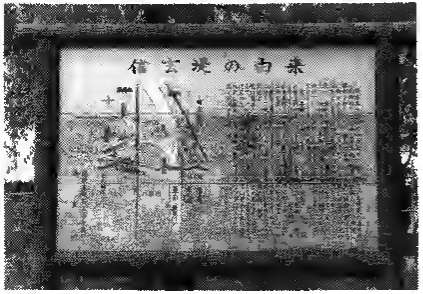
Manriki Forest, planted along the Fuefuki River as flood control



Shingen Embankment was built alongside a branch construction of the Midai River, and was completed with ground-breaking river diversion technologies for the time, by gradually weakening the power of the flooding by offsetting the rapids of the Midai and Kamanashi rivers and branching them into an anti-flood pond. It was said that the embankment deployed in an echelon formation was inspired by the formation of fish scales, and it would become a living example of the future Kai style of embankment construction. Of course, since Kai was surrounded by mountains, they had groundwork in stonecutting and stone-arranging technology, and this project was likely made possible by combining this groundwork with the high technology of the prospectors. But the precise grasp on the situation and planning, the prominent leadership, and the methods involving taming nature without opposing nature, showed that it was greatly influenced by Shingen's way of looking at and thinking about things. Conducting such massive, complex, and difficult undertakings at the same time as the invasion of Shinano was unthinkable for other lords of the Warring States, and in this respect, Shingen can be said to have been far superior to his rival Kenshin.



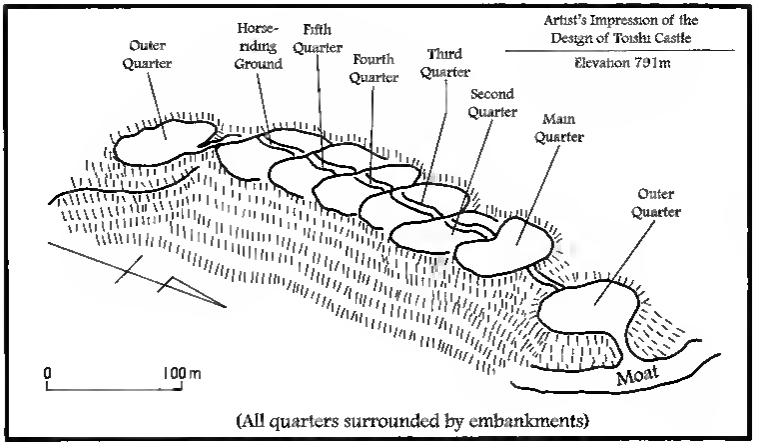
Shingen Embankment, excavated from the embankment alongside the modern-day Midai River



Guide board of the embankment

In August of Eiroku year 3 (1560), the Shingen Embankment was completed after twenty years of construction. This caused the agricultural production of the province of Kai to rapidly increase.

TOSHI CASTLE - THE TRUTH OF THE RUIN OF TOSHI?



(All quarters surrounded by embankments)

During the siege, Shingen expected to be cautious by sending two big-shots, Yokota Bicchu-no-Kami and Hara Toratane, as scouts, but the battle did not unfold as he thought he could due to the massive and the special shape of the castle that obstructed visibility. And as the army of Kai continued a lengthy siege, the sudden appearance of the Murakami army turned the tables and made the siege into a field battle. When that happened, Shingen's units could not stay in contact no matter how hard he tried, and the army of Kai was routed. These are the details of the "Ruin of Toishi".

But history has a sense of irony. The next year, Toishi Castle would fall most simply to Sanada Yukitaka's scheme. This was the result of a clever lure into surrender, and caused Shingen's enemies to know firsthand of Shingen's overwhelming superiority within Shinano.

The ruins of Toishi Castle still remain, looking peacefully over fields of grapevines among the mountains, as if to forget the memories of the bloody battles of ancient times.

Distant view of Toishi Castle, land of the ruin of the Kai army

In September of Tenbun year 19 (1550), Shingen marched once again upon Shiota Plains to slay his final foe remaining in Shinano, Murakami Yoshikiyo. But to march on Murakami's main citadel of Kazurao Castle from Shiota Plains, he first had to besiege the branch castle of Toishi Castle. Shingen was confident. Previously, after his defeat at Uedahara, he had sufficiently won over the clans in Shiota Plains on Yoshikiyo's side with massive quantities of gold and acts of force. It is without doubt that the thought "This time" was in his mind.

But Toishi Castle was a massive mountain castle, built lengthwise to the north and south, constructed on the southern face of Mt. Higashitaro, at an elevation of 1,300 meters, and the flow of the Kangawa blocked the way at the foot. It was not a castle that would fall easily.

KAZURAO CASTLE ~ LEGEND OF THE HAIRPIN FERRY

Ruins of Kazurao Castle and the Hairpin Ferry

Stripped naked by the fall of Toishi Castle, Kazurao Castle faced the estrangement of the surrounding clans, and fell on its own without waiting for the army of Kai. Though the mighty general Murakami Yoshikiyo regretfully abandoned the castle with his men and family, a legend remains in this land about Yoshikiyo's wife during this escape.

When Yoshikiyo's wife was crossing the Chikuma River that surrounded the castle, the ferryman told her in detail the route to make a safe escape, as a repayment for all she had done. Overwhelmed, Yoshikiyo's wife gave the ferryman a hairpin she had put in her hair as a reward for his loyalty.

Information Board on the Hairpin Ferry

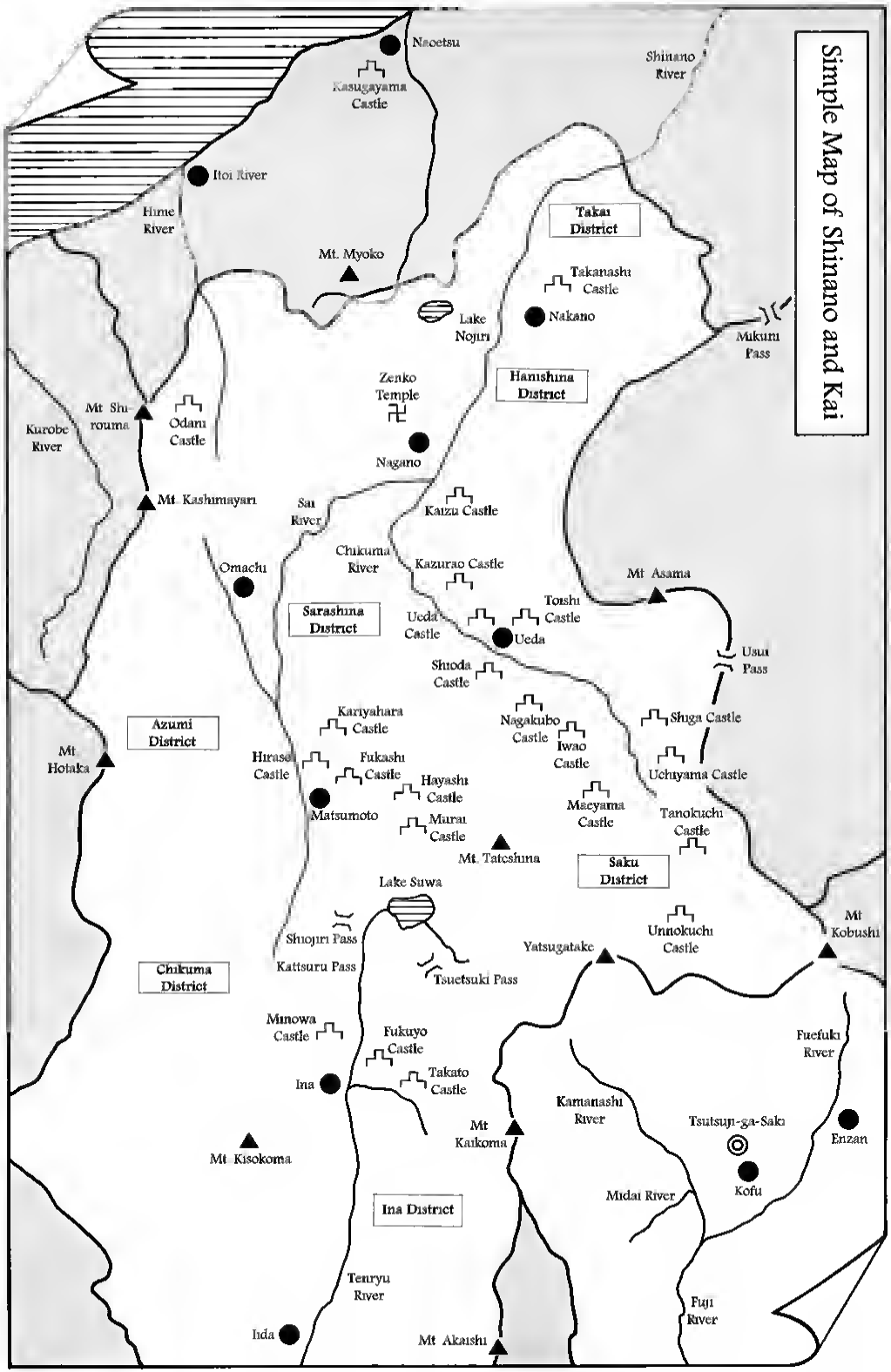
TAKEDA SHINGEN SCRAPBOOK ⑫

THE ROD ROAD ~ KAI'S AUTOBAHN

Shingen's Rod Road remaining in Kobuchizawa

During the Tenbun years (1532-55), Shingen constructed a military road for the invasion of Shinano. This was called the Rod Road, and was a road literally as straight as a rod, going directly from Nirasaki in Kai straight through Shinano. This was a comprehensive military facility carefully planned, with hidden pastures for resupplying warhorses, signal fires, fortresses, and checkpoints set up along each strategic location. Though it says in the "Chronicles of Kai" that "There were three roads", the lowermost road was built with many curves, and it was said that these were used as defensive positions to strike enemy attackers. The Rod Road remaining near Kobuchizawa has a number of elegant villas along it, and it is hard to imagine that it used to be a military road. But when staring into the distance along this road lined by dense trees, anyone can hear the neighs of warhorses and the footsteps of marching soldiers like the roar of the sea.

Photography by Tamiyama Shinichiro


Simple Map of Shinano and Kai
Naoetsu
Kasugayama Castle
Shinano River
Itoi River
Hime River
Takai District
Mt. Myoko
Takanashi Castle
Lake Nojiri
Nakano
Mukuri Pass
Zenko Temple
Hanishina District
Mt Shirouma
Odaru Castle
Kurobe River
Nagano
Mt. Kashimayari
Sai River
Kaizu Castle
Chikuma River
Kazurao Castle
Omachi
Mt Asama
Toishi Castle
Sarashina District
Ueda Castle
Ueda
Usui Pass
Shioda Castle
Kariyahara Castle
Nagakubo Castle
Shiga Castle
Azumi District
Iwao Castle
Mt Hotaka
Hirase Castle
Fukashi Castle
Uchiyama Castle
Hayashi Castle
Matsumoto
Maeyama Castle
Tanokuchi Castle
Murai Castle
Mt. Tateshina
Saku District
Lake Suwa
Unnokuchi Castle
Mt Kobushi
Shiojiri Pass
Yatsugatake
Kattsuru Pass
Tsuetsuki Pass
Chikuma District
Minowa Castle
Fukuyo Castle
Fuefuki River
Ina
Takato Castle
Kamanashi River
Mt Kaikoma
Tsutsujn-ga-Saki
Enzan
Mt. Kisokoma
Kofu
Midai River
Ina District
Tenryu River
Fuji River
Ida
Mt. Akaishi

Important Characters In This Volume

⊙ Kai:

Takeda Harunobu (Shingen)

Legal Wife:
Lady Sanjo (Sanjo Clan) —— Taro Yoshinobu

Concubines: Satomi (Nezu Clan)

Koihime (Suwa Clan) —— Katsuyori (born Tenbun year 17)

⊙ Suruga:

Imagawa Yoshimoto —— Tsune
Married on November 27, Tenbun year 21

⊙ Echigo:

Nagao Kagetora (Uesugi Kenshin)

⊙ Central Shinano:

Ogasawara Nagatoki (Hayashi Castle)
Nishimura Shirozaemon
Mimura Suruga-no-Kami

[Takeda's Retainers]

Komai Kohakusai
Hinata Saburoshiro
(Magistrate of Rifles)
Hara Kaga-no-Kami
Obu Hyobu
Baba Minbu
Tenbun year 17 – Shiojiri Pass

⊙ North Shinano:

Murakami Yoshikiyo (Kazurao Castle)

Imai Hyobu (Magistrate of Gold Mines)
Kamata Jurozaemon (Former Magistrate)
Tachiki Sengen (Doctor)
Yamamoto Kansuke (Spy)

(Toishi Castle)
Yamada Kunimasa
Azuma Kiyotsuna
Yazawa Fusashige
September, Tenbun year 19
Yokoda Bicchu-no-Kami
Ozawa Shikibu
Oyamada Nobuari
Watanabe Unshu

Tenbun year 20

(Murakami Castle)
Osuga Kyubei

(Wada Castle)
Oi Nobuhiro —— Tazu

⊙ Chiisagata

Sanada Yukitaka (Matsuo Castle)
Kakuma Shichirobe/Takefuchi Gensho

⊙ **Inner Shinano:** Takanashi Masanori, Sakaki Morimasa, Terao Shigeyori ⊙ **Azumi District:** Koiwatake Zusho (Koiwatake Castle)

⊙ **Hanishina District:** Priest Seino Seijuken ⊙ **Takai District:** Suda Shinzaemon (Fukushima Castle)

あなたは，このコミック武田信玄を読んで，どんな感想をお持ちになりましたか。

お読みになった感想やご意見をおよせくだされば幸いです。〒162 東京都新宿区新小川町9 25 日商ビル5F
講談社 コミック武田信玄編集部

N.D.C.726 238p 19cm

歴史コミック51

コミック 武田信玄(4) 越後の竜の巻

定価500円
昭和62年10月23日 第1刷発行
昭和62年11月18日 第2刷発行

著者 横山光輝
原作 新田次郎
発行者 加藤勝久
発行所 株式会社講談社
〒112 東京都文京区音羽2-12-21
電話 東京(03)945-1111(大代表)
編集 株式会社第一出版センター
代表 原田 裕
〒162 東京都新宿区新小川町9-25 日商ビル
電話 東京(03)235-3051
印刷所 株式会社廣済堂
製本所 株式会社堅省堂
©千早クラブ 藤原てい 1987

講談社 Printed in Japan

■落丁本・乱丁本は小社雑誌業務部宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取替えします。なおこの本についてのお問い合わせは第一出版センター宛にお願いいたします。

ISBN4-06-104351-X(0)（セ）

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 35